

## Ghali warns of Haiti invasion

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The head of the United Nations said Tuesday that a U.N. mission to prepare for the peaceful departure of Haiti's military leaders has failed and the next step could be a U.S.-led invasion. U.N. envoy Rolf Knutson returned from the Dominican Republic on Monday after Haitian military leaders refused to meet with him. "We have not been successful because the military people in Haiti refused to talk with my special representative," U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali told reporters after he briefed the Security Council on the mission. "I will not continue this mission unless in the future I receive a mandate from the Security Council or if there is a drastic change in Haiti." Mr. Knutson's goal was to pave the way for a formal U.N. mission to negotiate the departure of Haiti's military leaders. The U.N. called on Haiti's military leaders to step down in a resolution adopted July 31 that also authorised a possible U.S.-led invasion to remove the military from power and return President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to office. "We tried to have a peaceful implementation of resolution 930 but we have not been successful," Mr. Boutros-Ghali said.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جordan Times يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الجordanية للأنباء - الرأي

Volume 18 Number 5702

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1994, RAB' ALAWAL 23, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

## Crisis over seized cargo ends

AMMAN (AP) — Saudi authorities have released cargo they seized from Jordan-bound vessels, ending a crisis that threatened already strained relations, a senior shipping official said Tuesday. Sabah Muneisin, director of Jordan's Shipping Agents Association, said officials at the Saudi port of Jeddah have accepted to release the cargo after extensive contacts made during the past three weeks. "The cargo was released and loaded onto four vessels," Mr. Muneisin told the Associated Press. He said the ships would arrive separately at Aqaba on Tuesday and Wednesday. He declined to provide other details. Officials have said Saudi authorities on Aug. 12 forced three European vessels docked at Jeddah to unload Jordan-bound cargo, mainly food and other commodities imported by private traders here.

## Qadhafi mediates between Sudan, Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is trying to mediate an end to a bitter dispute between Egypt and Sudan by bringing together their leaders in Tripoli, Egyptian officials said Tuesday. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak will take part in celebrations in the Libyan capital on Thursday to mark the 25th anniversary of Qadhafi's rise to power. And a meeting in Libya with his Sudanese counterpart Omar Al Bashir on the sidelines of the festivities has "not been ruled out," the official told AFP. Relations between the two countries have soured since the military junta seized power in Khartoum in a coup d'état in 1989.

## DFLP claims Gaza attack

DAMASCUS (AP) — A radical Palestinian faction Tuesday said it ambushed an Israeli patrol the night before in the Gaza Strip. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine quoted a statement by its military wing inside the occupied territories as saying a group of its fighters ambushed the patrol in the northern Gaza Strip using automatic guns. The Damascus-based DFLP said the fighters withdrew safely after directly hitting the Israeli targets, but gave no details of casualties. Israeli military sources told the Associated Press in Israel that it was "probably" the DFLP that was responsible for firing at several arm vehicles accompanying an Israeli car en route to the Netzerim settlement south of Gaza City. There were no injuries.

## Russian craft fails to dock with space station

MOSCOW (R) — A Russian cargo craft on Tuesday failed for the second time to dock with the orbiting Mir space station and could face the abandonment of the current space mission, independent Russian television said. The television showed live pictures of the cargo craft — carrying water, food and technical equipment for the three-man crew — as it passed the space station in the second failed docking attempt in four days.

## Owen urges big powers to unite on Bosnia

GENEVA (R) — European Union mediator Lord Owen on Tuesday urged the big powers to avoid divisions on Bosnia, saying a united front would push Bosnian Serbs into eventually accepting the peace plan they rejected in a weekend referendum. Lord Owen, co-chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (ICFY), said Western members of the five-national "contact group" that drew up the plan should listen to Russia.

## King, Mitterrand hold talks in Paris today

### 'Peace process progressing well'

PARIS (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Tuesday arrived in the French capital on a two-day visit to France at the invitation of French President François Mitterrand, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, announced. According to Petra King Hussein will hold talks on bilateral relations and issues of common interest with President Mitterrand and senior French officials.

The King and Queen were welcomed at Paris's Orly airport by European Affairs Minister Alain Lamassoure. The King will hold meetings Wednesday with President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur before flying to London late Thursday.

The King visited France in July last year, followed by a man to Amman by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé in November and February. Foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said the visits were proof of "the friendship and intensity of political contacts between the two countries."

France has "constantly backed Jordan on a financial level" and helped slash by \$1.2 billion Jordan's foreign debt in June, according to the foreign ministry. King Hussein said in an

interview published Tuesday that Jordan might sign a peace agreement with Israel "very soon" but he refused to give a date.

The King, interviewed by the Israeli Yediot Ahronot newspaper during his visit to Bonn, would not be drawn on a visit to Jerusalem, saying "everything in good time."

"The process (between Israel and Jordan) is progressing well, really well. Major progress has been made in recent days and I am pleased with the discussions," he added.

The two neighbours began peace talks on July 18 and a week later the King signed a declaration with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ending 46 years of a state of war.

Before leaving Bonn for Paris the King discussed German aid to Jordan with Bonn Development Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger.

Mr. Spranger told the King that Germany, Jordan's biggest non-Arab donor country after the United States, would maintain its involvement in the region, the development ministry said in a statement.

Mr. Spranger also called on German companies to invest more in the Middle East in order to support the peace process.

Germany gave aid of about

44 million marks (\$28 million) to Jordan last year and wrote off Jordanian debt of 29.5 million marks (\$18.6 million).

The statement said the two countries planned to negotiate writing off a similar amount of debt in Bonn in October.

On Monday the King secured German support for the peace process in the Middle East during meetings with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

Petra said the King briefed Mr. Spranger on Jordan's role in the peace process and developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

The King noted Jordan's great sacrifices over the past four decades, saying that Jordan has shouldered the major burden of the Palestine problem.

The King is accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princes Hamzeh and Hashem, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's political advisor Marwan Al Qassem, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and member of the Upper House of Parliament Jamal Naser.

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His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday arrive from Germany at Orly airport south of Paris. The King is on a one-day working visit to France, centred on the Middle East peace process (AFP photo)

## Musa relents to Israeli pressure to visit memorial

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, under pressure from Israel, agreed to visit on Wednesday Israel's Holocaust memorial to the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis.

His original programme did not include the haunting memorial and threatened to sour the first official visit to Israel by Cairo's top diplomat since the two countries signed a peace treaty in 1979.

"I am looking forward to visiting the children's memorial," Mr. Musa said Tuesday after talks with his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres.

"You should know we are very sensitive to your sensitivities," he said. "I hope it will add to good relations between Israel and Egypt."

Mr. Peres added: "We don't force anybody, we don't make it an obligation. This is not an imposition, this is a proposal."

But former foreign minister David Levy announced Monday he would boycott an official dinner for Musa in protest and local papers had blasted him for alleged insensitivity.

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## Algerian radicals turn on Morocco

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria announced the closure of its land border in retaliation for a Moroccan decision to impose visa requirements on Algerians, following an apparently fundamentalist attack on a Marrakesh hotel in which two Spanish tourists were killed. FIS also denounced Morocco's attempts to profit from the current (crisis) in Algeria to feed its dreams of control," describing the decision to demand visas as an "anti-Islamic" step which "contributes still further to the break-up of our already divided community."

Since last week's visa ruling more than 5,000 Algerians, most of them holidaymakers or on family visits, have been reported as forced to leave Morocco amid complaints of harassment, summary expulsion, and other nationals have been caught in the confusion. "Only the instalment of an Islamic state in Morocco as well as Algeria will allow our people to live in prosperity, tranquillity, solidarity, fraternity and peace," said the statement issued by Sheikh Abdelbaki Sahraoui of the Myrrha mosque in Paris.

"We had the feeling that overnight we had become thieves, crooks, undesir-

able," commented one Algerian arriving back on a special flight from Casablanca.

Moroccan police launched a nationwide manhunt for accomplices after the Marrakesh killings and arrested two Frenchmen of Algerian origin accused of being involved, as the government warned that it wanted to avoid importing Algeria's fundamentalist problems.

Thousands of people have died in Algeria in fighting between armed Islamic groups and the military-led, government since elections, which the FIS was poised to win were cancelled two years ago.

In Tuesday Rabat officials said the "Marrakesh group" — the two arrested men and a third who got away — and three others in the "Fes group" were all accomplices. The visa ruling is not bad news for all: in Algerian border towns it has meant stronger local currency and a decline in the price of goods.

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## Egyptian court rejects anti-conference suit

**CAIRO** (Agencies) — A court on Tuesday rejected a suit by Muslim fundamentalists aimed at blocking next week's U.N. international population conference. The court said the case was outside its jurisdiction.

The lawyers who brought suit said they would file an immediate appeal, but it was unclear if it would be heard before the meeting starts next Sunday.

It was not expected Egyptian courts would rule against holding the conference, which has been in the planning stage for years and is expected to draw 15,000 participants from around the world.

Muslim fundamentalists have complained that the conference's draft proposals "protect abortion and sex education" and would encourage ... outside marriage.

The lawyers' suits argued that Egypt ... says its legal code runs counter to Islamic principles.

"Egypt is an Islamic country which shouldn't allow the conference to be held here," said Abdul Halim Mandour, one of the lawyers bringing suit.

Conference organisers have argued the conference document is only a proposal to be debated at the meeting. They also note that no country will be required to adopt programmes recommended by the conference.

The decision of the Administrative Judicial Court, read by Judge Abdul Aziz Hamada, said three suits concerning the conference were outside its jurisdiction since President Hosni Mubarak had invited the conference to Cairo and had the right to do so.

Two Islamic countries,

Saudi Arabia and Sudan, are boycotting the meeting.

Sudan's government, in announcing its boycott Monday night, urged other Muslim nations to also withdraw because the meeting would result in "the spread of immoral and irreligious values."

The Saudi representative at the United Nations in New York sent a message earlier this week "regretting they are not going to participate," an official at conference headquarters in Cairo said Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia and Sudan are the first countries known to withdraw from the conference.

Sudan's minister of social planning, Ali Osman Mohammad Taha, said in announcing the boycott that Sudan was trying to organise a forum for opponents of the draft action plan.

Jahran-e-Islam, representing Islamic radicals who brought the conference was a "plot against Islam and should be strongly opposed."

"Iranian leaders should break their silence and unequivocally condemn this anti-Islamic move," it said.

Iranian Health Minister Alireza Marandi said on Sunday that Iran would take part in the conference to make its position known and put forward proposals to alter parts of the draft plan.

He also complained that the conference reflects the views of the United States, telling reporters "a considerable number" of conference resolutions reflect the policies that brought President ... to office.

Abdul Basit Sabadrat, minister of culture and information, said that opposing the conference was "a kind of jihad (holy war) against corruption and the new hegemony which some seek to impose on us."

The complaints about the United States echoed statements by some Muslim radicals who have charged the U.S. government wants to spread what they regard as immoral Western values into the Islamic World.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore, who will attend the conference, has said the United States does not want to impose its views on other

Abortion has been strictly banned in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the pro-Western Shah.

It is very clear that Al Talea is the only one of its kind in the Gulf," he said.

Mr. Deyain, former deputy chief editor of the heavyweight daily Al Watan, is KDF assistant secretary general. Mr. Minayes, who owns Talea's copyright licence, is KDF secretary general.

It published in magazine format in those years, taking a pan-Arabist line and serving as a mouthpiece for the liberal opposition Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF) grouping.

While political parties are banned, the government has taken no action against groups like the KDF that acted much as parties in 1992 parliamentary elections, and in assembly sessions since.

Al Talea reappeared in January 1993 and now embraces a wider range of opposition views. But it remains the scourge of Islamic political groups, criticising their campaign to require the compulsory adherence of all the emirate's residents to strict Islamic behaviour and journalism.

Mr. Minayes and editor in chief Ahmad Al Nafisi, both former MPs, were held by the authorities overnight in December after they refused to pay bail during questioning about an allegedly defamatory report on state investments.

It has also taken the bold step of calling for changes to the way some ministries are allocated among members of the Sabah family, which has ruled the emirate for over 200 years.

The fingerprints of Al Talea are found all over Kuwaiti democracy," Ahmad Al Deyain, an adviser to the newspaper, told Reuters.

"In general journalism is a pillar of democracy, along with parliament and political parties, and Al Talea plays an important role in the main political battles."

"We are very clear in criticism of the Islamist political parties and MP's and ministers who represent them... personally as a senior journalist I am interested in bold news."

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They were freed after it was agreed they lodge bail in the form of a non-monetary personal guarantee.

Al Talea's circulation is believed much less than the mainstream newspapers which each sell 20,000 to 30,000 daily.

Bakers blame the shortage



Egyptian policemen Tuesday patrol in front of the International Conference Hall in Nasser City, a Cairo suburb. The conference from Sept. 5-13. An estimated 20,000 delegates from more than 150 countries are expected to attend; the conference (AFP photo)

## 'Oman arrests linked to Muslim Brotherhood'

LONDON (R) — Scores of

Islamists arrested in Oman for allegedly trying to destabilise the Gulf oil state are close to the moderate Muslim Brotherhood, the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat said Tuesday.

Several Shiite Muslim clergymen in Iran have also criticised the conference in recent days, saying it was a Western plot to liberalise abortion, homosexuality and premarital sex in the Islamic World.

A leading Iranian clergyman, Abbas Ali Amid Zanjani, denounced the conference on Sunday, charging that the forum promoted abortion.

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on the government for failing to provide them with their normal quotas of flour, most of which is imported and then distributed at subsidised prices.

Officially, the price of the ordinary loaf remains unchanged at one rial (1/2 U.S. cents) but its weight and size have been cut by more than 50 per cent, citizens said.

The price of better quality bread, while its size has remained constant, has doubled to two rials (three cents) a loaf, citizens said. Either way people are getting half as much bread for their money.

"If as a member of the parliament I cannot get wheat for myself, how about others?" asked Ismail Abdul Rahman, a member of parliament.

Parliamentarians, whose remarks have been broadcast by Sanaa television, have launched unusually scathing attacks on the government for failing to ensure subsidised commodities were reaching the needy.

They blamed the crisis on government inefficiency, nepotism and corruption.

"People are fed up with this government. We want an urgent solution to the hungry bellies," Mr. Abdul Rahman

Qaboos University, was first arrested on June 13 and had been detained indefinitely since June 26 after refusing to sign a document containing an alleged confession.

The London group alleged Mr. Khayri was tortured during his detention and said political prisoners in Oman are not allowed to appoint lawyers and can be held indefinitely without trial.

Al Hayat said Mr. Ghazali's businessman brother Salem was captured in a swoop by the military who landed by helicopter within his palace grounds before spirit him away.

It said the Sheikh and another brother Hamed had since been released but Salem remained in jail.

Gulf diplomats said the arrests appeared to be limited although they included senior civil servants, including one official with the rank of ministry under-secretary.

Al Hayat quoted a Gulf Islamist leader as describing the arrests as no more than a warning to Islamic militants that Oman was prepared to crack down hard if they went beyond certain limits.

## For Arafat, self-rule means he rules

By Neil MacFarquhar  
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

— Yasser Arafat, facing challenges from Islamic opponents and disgruntled loyalists, rules a government largely paralysed because it revolves entirely around him.

No government appointment can be made without passing across his desk. He must supervise the construction of Gaza airport personally. Senior officials must have his signature even to get the small sums needed to travel to Jordan.

"Arafat's style of leadership is that he is the only decision-maker, so he is making everyone irrelevant whether his own men from Tunis or local politicians," said Khalil Shikaki, a Gaza native and head of the Centre for Palestine Research and Studies in the West Bank.

Since he first arrived in Gaza from Palestine Liberation Organisation headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia, in early July, Mr. Arafat's frequent mood swings and angry outbursts have some officials wondering about his health.

The machinery of government is in limbo, missing or patched together from whatever the Israelis left when they withdrew in May.

"Even those who are willing to work hard to build a state have found themselves unable to do anything. This creates chaos," said Azmi Shuaibi, minister of youth in the Palestinian National Authority, the 18-member council supposed to supervise self-rule.

Mr. Arafat is sharply critical of the lack of economic

aid. Western officials say the Palestinians have received \$150 million so far. Foreign donors have withheld \$400 million pledged for major infrastructure projects, demanding some form of agency to account for the funds.

Many worry about his commitment to democracy. He closed two newspapers deemed insufficiently loyal, and the Voice of Palestine news broadcasts focus on him. A suspected Israeli informant died under police interrogation.

With his main political opponents, he has been trying to win loyalty and avoid confrontation. After the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, claimed responsibility for a series of attacks against Israelis, police arrested 40 for questioning. Mr. Arafat ordered them released.

Local Fatah organisers have been angered by not getting important jobs. Mr. Arafat has been fumelling them into preventive security, a secret police force that has started to compete with the regular police. Ties between Mr. Arafat and top police Maj. Gen. Nasser Yousef are publicly strained.

Mr. Arafat is famous for blurring the lines of responsibility so that everyone is dependent on him, but the risks in volatile Gaza are enormous.

"If there are confrontations it will be very bloody. The security branches are already competing with each other, there is no coordination and no communication between them," said Mr. Shikaki.

## Turkey supports N. Cyprus measures

ANKARA (R) — Turkey pledged support on Tuesday for efforts by the breakaway Turkish republic in North Cyprus to move closer to Ankara and away from a federal solution for the divided Mediterranean island.

"If... the TRNC (Turkish Republic of North Cyprus) is condemned to an impasse by the one-sided efforts of the other side which contravene the idea of equality, it will be inescapable... for Turkey to take precautions so as to force the Turkish Cypriot people to the mercy of the situation," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Turkish foreign minister Mumtaz Soysal is due in North Cyprus for talks on Wednesday.

The northern assembly voted on Monday to draw up foreign policy, defence and security agreements with Turkey, similar to existing joint military and security deals between Athens and the Greek Cypriot government in southern Cyprus.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974, when Turkish troops occupied the north in reaction to a Greek Cypriot coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Long-standing efforts by the U.N. to reconcile the two communities have so far proved fruitless. The latest talks stalled in June, although shuttle diplomacy resumed in recent weeks.

Muslim clerics have joined in the attacks. One preacher at Friday prayers, citing nepotism and corruption, criticised the effect on ordinary Cypriots.

"People are fed up with this government. We want an urgent solution to the hungry bellies," Mr. Abdul Rahman

Economists say Cyprus consumes about two million tonnes of wheat and flour annually, three-quarters of it imported.

The price of rice, another key component of the Cypriot diet, has also soared in recent weeks.

Muslim clerics have joined in the attacks. One preacher at Friday prayers, citing nepotism and corruption, criticised the effect on ordinary Cypriots.

"People are fed up with this government. We want an urgent solution to the hungry bellies," Mr. Abdul Rahman

It also protested against efforts by the Greek Cypriot south, recognised internationally as the Republic of Cyprus, to join the EU.

In Nicosia, Greek Foreign Minister Carlos Papoulias on Tuesday called for measures to force Turkish Cypriot leaders to discuss ways of ending the 20-year-old division of Cyprus.

"The moment has come that all measures should be taken to force the Turkish to stop its delaying tactics and sincerely cooperate for achieving a solution to the island," he told the Greek Cypriot Cyprus News Agency.

His comment came after Turkish-Cypriot leaders on Monday announced they will seek closer ties with Ankara, abandoning a long-standing policy to set up a federation with Greek-Cypriots.

But the Turkish-Cypriot move was immediately denounced by the Cyprus government as a bid "to torpedo UN efforts" to solve the problem of the divided Mediterranean island.

Turkey invaded the north in 1974 after an extreme right-wing coup on the island masterminded by the then-Greek junta in Athens.

Mr. Papoulias, who is on a four-day official visit here, did not specify what measures he was thinking of but said the Cyprus problem was a "top national priority" for his government.

On Monday he held talks with Greek-Cypriot leaders, including Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides, aimed at resolving the problem and examining a "common defense doctrine" linking both countries.

## HIZJ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

## MARKET PRICES

Upper price in dirhams per kg.

Apple ..... 720/400  
Banana ..... 680/350  
Banana (Kishmish) ..... 620/300  
Carrot ..... 120/60  
Carrot ..... 300/250  
Cauliflower ..... 220/140  
Cucumber ..... 200/100  
Cucumber (small) ..... 420/300  
Eggplant ..... 460/360  
Figs ..... 900/500  
Garlic ..... 320/200  
Grapes ..... 440/250  
Guava ..... 300/200  
Lemon ..... 250/150  
Marrow (large) ..... 480/300  
Marrow (small) ..... 150/80  
Mushrooms ..... 500/300  
Orange ..... 280/180  
Onion (dry) ..... 220/120  
Sweet Melons ..... 220/150

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With his main  
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been trying to win over  
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ity, a secret police force  
has started to compete  
the regular police. Between  
Mr. Arafat and  
police Maj. Gen. N.  
Yousef are publicly  
Mr. Arafat is famous  
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The Arab World's events  
prompted the novelist to produce  
a qualitative work that depicts  
true-life incidents, according  
to the symposium chairman.

Rich with concepts and  
ideas, and including different  
types of writing styles, the  
novel arouses long debates.

Majid Samarrai, an Iraqi  
literary critic who admitted  
that he had only time to read  
the novel once, noted that  
the novelist used the approach  
of "narrative rendering,  
then event collapse."

The novel criticises different  
aspects of life, such as  
"political stands, events,  
characters, the writer himself  
or a particular situation," said Mr. Samarrai.

It is a novel that "forces the  
readers to think hard

## Regent to open international gastro-intestinal conference

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday will open the Medico-Surgical Gastro-Intestinal Conference at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) which will be attended by about 300 delegates from Jordan and nine other Arab and foreign countries.

Dr. Abu Hassan, president of the Jordanian Society of Gastroenterology, told the Jordan Times that 56 working papers will be presented on such topics as laparoscopic surgery, haemorrhoidectomy, appendicectomy, peptic ulcer diseases, viral hepatitis, colon tumours, tumours of the liver and other subjects related to

orthopaedic surgery.

According to Dr. Abu Hassan, his society organised the meeting jointly with the Jordanian Surgical Society and the Jordanian Medical Society because of the common topics shared by these societies.

In addition to the general

meetings, there will be two panel discussions: One recent developments in hepatitis C infections, and the other on updating the treatment of bleeding due to oesophageal varices, according to Dr. Abu Hassan who is also vice chairman of the three-day conference.

He said that the participants will also attend workshops at the King Hussein



**EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION:** Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Abdul Qader Atrash, director of the regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Tuesday review with facilities for its Amman office's activities (Petra photo)

## Panel finalises proposed income tax amendments

AMMAN (I.T.) — Proposed amendments to the income tax law, which have been just finalised by a special Finance Ministry committee, are aimed at increasing the number of taxpayers, re-examining regulations governing personal exemptions, encouraging investment, and simplifying tax collection procedures, according to

Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh.

In a statement quoted by Al Aswad Arable daily Tuesday, the minister said the amendments were drafted by a 16-member committee which was charged with developing reforms.

The government aims at enabling the country to depend more on its own re-

sources by increasing the volume of local revenues and reducing dependence on foreign financing, said Mr. Gammoh.

According to the minister, the reforms are expected to achieve equity and social justice and at the same time guarantee sufficient income for the state.

The amendments, he

said, include clauses that reduce the taxation burdens on citizens whether married or single and take into account the cost of living index and social development.

Mr. Gammoh also said that the amendments would eventually do away with negative aspects of the law.

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## Haiti clergy in fear after slaying

**PORTE-AU-PRINCE (R)** — The slaying of a clergyman loyal to ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide opened a new chapter of terror among church officials allied with the deposed populist priest.

But Western diplomats and other analysts in the capital saw little indication Monday that Father Jean-Marie Vincent's murder by suspected paramilitary forces would speed prospects of a U.S. invasion to restore him.

Fr. Vincent, a Liberation Theologist who fought for peasant rights, was shot five times outside his order's Port-Au-Prince residence Sunday night by a waiting group of men armed with automatic weapons.

The killing had the hallmarks of Haiti's paramilitary, a collection of forces which indirectly answers to the country's military command, which took control after ousting Mr. Aristide in a bloody 1991 coup, diplomats and Haitian analysts said.

Pro-Aristide church officials who have not gone into hiding braved the public spotlight Monday to condemn the killing, the first of a priest since 1985.

"Since the 1991 coup we

have done nothing but bury bodies," Sister Kresta Occident told reporters. "We call on the de facto authorities, the military and their thugs to return the country to constitutionality."

The murder of what the U.S. embassy called a "martyr for democracy" is the latest in what Western officials and Haitian activists say is a campaign by Haiti's military leaders and its supporters to wipe out any lingering support for Mr. Aristide, now in exile in the United States.

"Probably this killing is the beginning and we can expect that others will follow..." said Father Antoine Adrien, one of the few remaining outspoken church allies of Mr. Aristide.

"You cannot replace a Father Vincent," Fr. Adrien told Reuters. "He is dead; Antonie Izmerly is dead, Guy Malary is dead — we are losing people very important for us." Fr. Adrien told Reuters, referring to the pro-Democracy business leader executed in the middle of a mass. Fr. Adrien officiated and the assassinated Haitian justice minister.

Most of the church hierar-

chy in Haiti has aligned itself with the country's military rulers and against the return of Mr. Aristide, a champion of the poor who was expelled from his own Salesian Order accused of exalting class struggle.

Fr. Vincent's body was taken away by police and has not yet been released to allow the church to bury him, Fr. Adrien said. An evening prayer vigil Monday planned at the blood-stained spot where Fr. Vincent fell was postponed for the daylight hours.

The United States Monday denounced the murder of Fr. Vincent, whom it called a "martyr for democracy" and hinted that it had made a U.S.-led invasion of Haiti to restore Mr. Aristide more likely.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said the U.S. message to those behind this and other assassination in the troubled Caribbean nation was: "Your crimes only increase our outrage and strengthen our resolve to rid Haiti of your abuses."

He told a news briefing it was "entirely incorrect" to suggest that Haiti invasion

plans had been put on hold because of the current crisis over Cuban refugees trying to reach the United States as is widely believed.

But in Port-Au-Prince, Western diplomats and Haitian analysts said they did not expect Fr. Vincent's murder to help spark what could be an invasion unpopular in the United States.

Meanwhile, two top U.S. officials left for Jamaica and the Dominican Republic Tuesday to discuss Haiti with Caribbean leaders and inspect enforcement of a U.N. trade embargo against Haiti's military government.

The flight by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Deputy Defence Secretary John Deutch came a day after Washington deplored the murder of Fr. Vincent.

Mr. Talbott and Mr. Deutch, the second-ranking officials at their departments, were to attend a meeting of foreign and defence ministers of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) in Kingston to discuss Haiti, then fly to the Dominican Republic.

In the Dominican Republic, they planned to inspect enforcement of a worldwide trade embargo against neighbouring Haiti along the 225-mile (362-kms) frontier that divides the two countries on the island of Hispaniola.



Haitian Father Jean-Marie Vincent (left) and Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide (right) preside over mass in Port-Au-Prince in this file photo dated Aug. 4, 1987, prior to Mr. Aristide's election as president. Father Vincent, a politically active supporter of Mr. Aristide, was shot by gunmen near his church (AP Photo)

before flying back to Washington late Tuesday night.

More than eighty U.N. observers gathered at strategic points in the Western Dominican Republic last week to monitor enforcement of the embargo of fuel and other items against Haiti.

Mr. Talbott and Mr. Deutch were to meet separately with Mr. Balaguer and political opposition leader Jose Francisco Pena Gomez

before flying back to Washington late Tuesday night.

The Dominican Republic until now, has not enforced the embargo and punitive economic measures, but diplomats hope that will change under a new deal signed by U.S. officials and recently reelected Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer.

Mr. Talbott and Mr. Deutch were to meet separately with Mr. Balaguer and political opposition leader Jose Francisco Pena Gomez

## Philippines mine blast kills 62; 12 missing

**MANILA (R)** — At least 62 miners were killed and 12 were missing and feared dead after methane gas exploded in an underground tunnel in the southern Philippines in the country's worst coal-mine disaster, officials said Tuesday.

Fourteen were injured while scores of others crammed uncashed out of the 150-metre-deep tunnel after the Monday evening blast in the state-owned coal mine in Malangas Municipality on Mindanao Island.

(PNOC), is the country's biggest underground coal mine, producing 200,000 tonnes a year.

"It is, sorry to say, the worst coal-mine disaster in the Philippines," said Leonardo Ote, an executive with the subsidiary, PNOC Energy Development.

The bodies of some of the dead were found near the mouth of the tunnel, suggesting they were about to reach safety when they collapsed, he said.

No clear winner emerges after election debate by Quebec leaders

**MONTREAL (R)** — Quebec leader Sparre Monday night in a televised debate over whether their French-speaking province should become independent from Canada, but pundits saw no clear winner in the debate.

Liberal Premier Daniel Johnson faced Jacques Parizeau, the leader of the separatist Parti Quebecois, in a 90-minute French-language debate two weeks ahead of a Sept. 12 provincial election.

Mr. Parizeau, who is not personally very popular in the province, was leading in polls ahead of the debate and is widely expected to win the upcoming vote.

Political analysts said Mr. Johnson needed a dramatic turn in the debate in order to make a turnaround. He lags in opinion polls by three per cent in overall support, but by 20 percentage points among French-speakers, who make up 82 per cent of the population and dominate two-thirds of the voting districts.

But the highly-structured debate, which did not allow

for much free sparing between the two, was seen as a draw.

"There was no knock-out punch," said political analyst Daniel Latoche. "No one really took control."

Although most of the debate was taken up with provincial issues like jobs, health care and taxes, the issue of the future of Quebec was one of the most hotly-discussed topics of the night.

"What is the leader of the Parti Quebecois leading us into?" asked Mr. Johnson. "What is the future of Quebec?"

Mr. Johnson, who has been accused by Mr. Parizeau of not caring enough about Quebec's "distinctiveness" because he wants to stay a part of Canada, also made an effort to tell viewers that in the past he has supported recognition of Quebec's distinctive character.

He also attacked Mr. Parizeau's economic policies, calling them "interventionist."

However, Mr. Parizeau seized on a poll released Monday which said although Quebecers were not likely to vote "yes" to separation now or a year from now, they did think the idea was possible and likely.

It is perfectly obvious that Quebec sovereignty will come about," Mr. Parizeau said. "I believe that it is necessary and I believe that Quebecers increasingly understand that it will come about."

## Conductor Chung locked out of Paris Opera

**PARIS (AFP)** — South Korean-born conductor Myung-Whun Chung was locked out of the Paris Opera Tuesday in spite of a court ruling that reinstated him in his job as musical director. Mr. Chung, 41, accompanied by lawyer Monique Pelletier and a bailiff, was prevented from entering a rehearsal room by Paris Opera Director Jean-Paul Cluzel, who fired Mr. Chung on Aug. 12. At first Mr. Cluzel locked Mr. Chung out of the whole building at the Bastille, but Mr. Chung managed to get in. Then Mr. Cluzel and the opera's lawyers barred the conductor from the rehearsal room. A Paris court ruled Monday that opera management acted illegally in sacking Mr. Chung, and ordered him reinstated. Opera officials appealed the decision. The court said the management did not have the right to appoint another musical director for the rehearsals or the performances of Verdi's Simon Boccanegra, which opens the 1994-1995 season at the Bastille Opera House on Sept. 19. Australian conductor Simone Young has been staging rehearsals of the Verdi opera since Mr. Chung's dismissal earlier this month. Mr. Chung, brother of the violinist Kyung-Wha Chung, was sacked after he refused to renegotiate his contract, which dates from Dec. 22, 1992 and expires in August 2000. Mr. Chung, then sued the opera. In a statement, the Paris Opera said that for five months it has been making proposals to change the terms of Chung's contract. "All the proposals were rejected," the statement said. The Gaulist administration of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur had appointed a new management to replace flamboyant Pierre Bergé in a cost-cutting exercise. Mr. Bergé had sacked Mr. Chung's predecessor Daniel Barenboim five years ago.

## Thai teen drug addiction grows at alarming rate

**BANGKOK (AFP)** — Heroin addiction among Thailand's teenagers is increasing "at an alarming rate" as drug-laced cigarettes spread in high schools and vocational institutions, a police physician said Tuesday. More than 100 new cases of heroin addiction were reported among those aged 15 to 16 in one Bangkok hospital during the past three months according to Dr. Somyot Demak of the Thai Surgeon General's Office. Dr. Somyot said doctors attributed the steep increase in addition to the proliferation of heroin-dipped or heroin-mixed cigarettes in schools. Dr. Somyot, who works at the Bangkok Police Hospital, said the actual number of heroin addicts among Thailand's youngsters may be larger than figures indicate. Minors who register at hospitals here must do so with their parents' consent, a difficult psychological burden for addicts, he said. "All the doctors at our hospital are extremely worried about this," he said.

**Race riot mars S. African beauty pageant**

**CAPE TOWN (R)** — A South African student beauty pageant ended in violence when part of the crowd protested because a black finalist was not crowned queen, the Cape Times newspaper reported Tuesday. The contest at the weekend was abandoned after Bulekwa Mabinanda, who is black, was named second princess and members of the crowd began pelting the stage with bottles and cans, apparently because they had wanted her to win.

The master of ceremonies was struck on the back by an object and taken for treatment. Ms. Mabinanda and the other finalists, Charlotte Bouw and Rene Maarmann, who are of mixed race, were taken back stage to protect them from the rampaging group. Ms. Maarmann, who was widely expected to win first prize of 1,000 rand (\$280) and a study scholarship, said she was terrified when the crowd went wild.

"Many people told me it was a racist incident. All I saw was a group of people storming to the stage and I was very scared," she was quoted as saying. Brian O'Connell, an official at the college where the incident occurred, deplored that the issue of racism had been highlighted, because it was a "simplistic response to a complex issue."

## Poll: Mandela enjoys rapid rise in popularity

**JOHANNESBURG (Agencies)** — South African President Nelson Mandela is enjoying a rapid rise in popularity among whites and is more popular than ever among blacks, a Gallup-Markinor poll published Tuesday shows.

Mr. Mandela, who was sworn in as the country's first black president on May 10, scored an average 6.0 out of 10 among whites compared to his 3.8 rating in November.

Metropolitan black support for the 76-year-old leader was recorded at an extremely high 9.2 out of 10 while metropolitan coloureds (mixed-race) and Indians rated Mr. Mandela at 6.9 and 7.0 respectively.

The poll was conducted between mid-June and mid-July among 1,000 blacks, 240 coloureds, 120 Indians and 640 whites in metropolitan areas, and a further 320 whites in urban and rural regions.

Deputy President F.W. De Klerk, who was president un-

til April and who began dismantling apartheid when he took over as head of state in 1989, proved more popular than Mr. Mandela among whites, who gave him 7.0 out of 10 in the poll.

Coloureds and Indians rated Mr. De Klerk even higher, at 7.6 and 7.2 respectively, while blacks pegged him at 4.8.

The poll showed that most South Africans believed Mr. Mandela and his government of national unity had been successful in uniting all South Africans into one nation, ending political violence and improving basic health services.

Political scientist Tom Lodge, of Witwatersrand University, attributed Mr. Mandela's increasing popularity among whites to the fact that he was "performing well as a president."

"He doesn't come across as a party leader any more, but as a statesman," Mr. Lodge told AFP.

## Germany, Japan lose bid to enter Security Council

**UNITED NATIONS (AFP)** — Germany and Japan have lost their bid to gain full membership of the Security Council by next year because of ongoing disagreements over the proposed broadening of the U.N.'s top decision-making body, Western diplomats said Monday.

A working group set up nine months ago and tasked with drafting a plan for widening the Security council has failed to come up with a proposal that would gather a consensus among members.

"There was broad agreement that the membership of the Security Council should be enlarged," members of the working group concluded in a report to be discussed by the United Nations General Assembly in two weeks.

"Although the debate was substantive and constructive in clarifying the positions of member-states, more time would be needed" to discuss the size and the status of the members, the report said.

Japan had hoped to gain full entry into a new wider Security Council next year in line with celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations but some diplomats say it would be unrealistic to expect any expansion of the Council before the year 2000.

Germany, faced with the prospect of waiting many years, has decided to accept a seat as a non-permanent member of the Council for two years as of Jan. 1.

The limited entry falls short of the permanent membership status currently enjoyed by China, Britain, France, Russia and the United States.

"We still have a long way to go," said one diplomat who attended meetings of the working group set up in December 1993.

Discussion on eligibility to the select club has yet to begin but already delegates are exchanging defiant glares with many prepared to wage major battles for a seat.

Non-Aligned members

Egypt as well as some Latin American countries including Colombia have turned debate on widening the Council into a broader forum for discussion on the Council's procedures.

These countries hope to make headway in their longstanding criticisms of the Security Council's lack of transparency and the privileged status of its members.

Security Council members, fearing demands for radical change are underway, announced a series of measures to improve contacts with other U.N. member states.

Even among Western nations, the issue has been a bone of contention with Italy — insulted over the fact that it was not on the list of possible new permanent members — joining critics in their campaign to reform the Security Council.

Italy has threatened formally to propose that France and Britain be forced to agree to the establishment of a rotating "European seat" in the Security Council if the official property of the German local and federal authorities.

In total some 270,000 hectares (400,000 acres) of land, larger than the area of the Saarland, the fourth smallest of Germany's federal states, were occupied by the former Soviet forces in what was East Germany.

The German Armed Forces are taking over a part of the various facilities for their own purposes, but the remainder is being handed over to the respective states, or to the Federal Finance Ministry to be sold off.

One state, Brandenburg in the heart of Prussia, had almost 10 per cent of its territory occupied by military installations used by some 200,000 Soviet troops, half the garrison based in East Germany at the height of the cold war.

The idea of granting semi-permanent status to new members has been brushed aside and the current trend is to allow renewal of non-permanent status.

The General Assembly meanwhile, was expected to take note of the working group's report and propose that it continue its meetings and submit a new report before the end of the 49th session in September 1995.

## Murayama's remorse comforts Asian leaders

**SINGAPORE (AFP)** — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's tactics of making high-profile apologies for Japan's wartime activities won over new friends on his four-nation Asian tour which ended here Tuesday.

The 70-year-old Socialist leader expressed some kind of remorse in the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia and rounded off his trip in Singapore with a promise that Japan would never again pose a military threat to the region.

In return, many of South East Asia's charmed leaders urged him to pursue Japan's claims for a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. Murayama surprised Mr. Murayama by saying Tokyo should stop apologizing for something that happened 50 years ago and play a more active role in promoting global security.

But a senior Malaysian official explained that Mr. Murayama was only sending a subtle message. "He is asking Japan for more aid to the region, not mere apologies," the official said.

The Singapore people are touched by your gesture of laying a wreath at our civilian war memorial... It shows how our relations have changed for the better," Mr. Murayama was told over dinner by Mr. Goh Chok Tong.

Before leaving Singapore, Mr. Murayama noted that next year is the 50th anniversary of the end of the Pacific war and said "Japan will firmly maintain an exclusively defence-oriented policy" and would not manufacture or use nuclear arms.

"It has been a fruitful visit. We have achieved our objective of promoting friendship Japan and the countries we visited," Mr. Murayama said in a pre-departure statement.

A Japanese official said the premier wanted to dispel apprehension that frequent changes of government — Mr. Murayama is the fourth premier in a year — would damage the continuity of Japanese policy.

Fields which the local authorities have little idea how to turn over to civilian use.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
Established 1973

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Rift must stop

THE ESCALATING rift between Algeria and Morocco appears to be getting out of control with the former deciding to break off diplomatic relations. With Algerian authorities now mobilising their country's entire transport network to bring home Algerian citizens currently in Morocco after Rabat slapped a visa requirement on them, Morocco is faced with a similar problem vis-a-vis its own people presently in Algeria.

The current crisis between the two North African Arab countries apparently started when Moroccan police arrested two French nationals of Algerian origin as suspects in the slaying of two Spanish tourists and consequently imposed a visa requirement on all Algerians, including third country nationals of Algerian background. Algeria retaliated by closing its borders with Morocco.

Normally the arrest of nationals of a country by another does not lead to the kind of actions and reactions that both Morocco and Algeria have resorted to. In the first place, whether the detained French-Algerian persons would be found guilty or not after they are duly tried, Morocco has clearly overreacted by imposing visa requirements on all Algerians presently in Morocco, estimated to be about three million. There is no room for guilt by association under international norms and under the worst scenario the affected Algerians are innocent people who should not be arbitrarily deported from the country. Algeria in turn overreacted also by closing its frontier posts with its neighbour Arab country and by so doing further exacerbated the conflict.

But what adds fuel to fire is the reported mistreatment of nationals of the two countries by the police authorities in both states. These developments suggest that something deeper beneath the surface may have been the real cause of the problem between Rabat and Algiers. There is every reason to suspect that political differences between them over the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara is at the heart of the lingering crisis of confidence between them. Algerian President Liamine Zeroual last week was reported to have criticised Moroccan "seizure" of this territory by saying that there was still an "illegally occupied country" in Africa. It is inconceivable that Algeria would deliberately seek to add to its nearly three-year-old civil strife by heating up differences with Morocco but skeptics may want to advance such theories anyway. Whatever the real reasons behind the worsening of relations, however, one thing is clear: What is happening should not have happened and sincere efforts must be exerted by the leaderships of both countries to halt the deterioration in ties. It is unbecoming of two neighbourly and brotherly Arab states to allow their relations to descend to the levels they have reached in the past week. A summit between King Hassan and President Zeroual is therefore urgently called for to contain the growing crisis and, hopefully, solve the problem once and for all.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE start of every academic year, our society is faced with the problem of enrollment of young men and women in Jordanian universities, something which is considered a luxury not available to the majority of people, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour daily. Students with high grades sometimes find themselves unable to enrol at the state universities to study medicine or engineering at a time when other students with lower grades are being allowed to take their seats at these faculties, claimed the writer. The private universities could be an alternative that would help ease the frustration of the young people but then they are unable to enrol in them due to their high fees, said the writer. To solve the problem, the state-owned universities could accept additional numbers of students each year while the private universities could reduce their fees to a degree that would allow students from limited income families to enrol in them, said the writer. As long as the Jordanian people as a whole are in one way or another contributing towards covering these universities expenses, he said, one expects these institutions to open their doors to the promising students from all sectors.

JORDAN AND Turkey speak the same language and are both in the same boat facing the consequences of the embargo imposed on Iraq over the past four years, said Tareq Masa'weh with reference to the just concluded visit to Jordan by Turkish President Suleiman Demirel. Perhaps the press conference His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Demirel held at the end of the brief visit was much more important than it looked, simply because it reflected the two sides' views concerning the sanctions on Iraq on the one

side and the other, according to the columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Iraq very important for Turkey and Jordan as a neighbour and supporter in times of need, and this was manifested in the two leaders' views which called for an immediate end of the suffering of the Iraqi people and the end of sanctions.

## Politics, not religion, fuelling opposition to Cairo conference

From G.H. Jansen

THE EGYPTIAN Islamists, having dubbed the International Conference on Population and Development, starting in Cairo on Sept. 5, the "licentious conference" have shifted the basis of their opposition to it from Islam to morality—that birth control leads to promiscuity. That change was just as well because Islam, over the centuries, has never objected to birth control and, therefore, is not, as alleged by a group of Egyptian lawyers who are trying to stop the conference altogether, contrary to the principles of Islam.

Indeed, if the lawyers had bothered to study Islamic law on the subject of birth control, they would have discovered that all Muslim interpretations of religious law were unanimous in permitting contraception. This is confirmed in a detailed study of the law and practice of contraception in Islam given in "Sex and Society in Islam" by the Cambridge University scholar B. Musallam, which should be required reading for all Islamists, especially those attacking contraception.

Only a statement in the Holy Koran itself prohibiting contraception would give full canonical authority to the Islamist opposition to it. But the Koran says nothing on the subject. The next most authoritative religious source would be the "hadith," the "traditions" of what the Prophet Mohammad said and did.

According to contemporary Muslim scholars few of these can be taken as totally authentic and while they contain several references to the most widely used contraceptive practice in the seventh century, coitus interruptus, they are not very convincing. There is one that is clearly condemnatory: "They asked him about coitus interruptus and the Prophet answered, 'it is hidden infanticide'."

There are several other "hadith" that are equally permissive: "We used to practice coitus interruptus during the Prophet's lifetime. News of this reached him and he did not forbid us" and "the Prophet said, 'practice coitus interruptus with the woman if you so wish, for she will receive what has been predestined for her'." and "we asked the Prophet about it. He replied, 'you do not have to

hesitate, for God has pre-destined what is to be created until Judgement Day.' The mere fact that the Prophet's companions could freely discuss this very intimate subject with him means that birth control was an accepted fact at that time.

The great Islamic jurists like Al Ghazali, in the 11th century, and Ibn Taimiya in the 14th century accepted the fact of contraception and provided reasons for the practice. Al Ghazali favoured the economic reason: A large family could tempt men into illegal transactions to meet their increased responsibilities and, besides, "material well-being is an aid to religion."

Contraception was accepted by all four of the classical legal schools of Sunni jurisprudence and by the Shiites as well. The Hanbalis, the strictest of these schools, went so far as to say that coitus interruptus was mandatory in enemy territory so that Muslim children would not be born into slavery.

Birth control was commonly practised by both men and women in the classical age of Islam. Both chemical and mechanical

means were used and in the standard texts of Arabic medicine references to female contraceptives outnumber those for men by four to one. This is true in the ninth century text entitled, "Hawi", of the great Islamic medical scientist Razi, known to Europe as Rhazes, where of 50 prescriptions 31 were for women, and in the Canon of the even more famous Ibn Sina, or Avicenna, of the 10th century, where of the 20 contraceptive prescriptions given, 10 were for women. Razes and Avicenna even accepted abortion as necessary in certain cases. Modern day medical scientists consulted about these remedies stated that about 10 per cent of the chemical means and almost all of the mechanical methods were effective and, indeed, used the same principles as contemporary means.

The Islamists have used the authority of Al Azhar University, the most prestigious Islamic institution, to buttress their case. Under the compulsion of the militants to follow their policy line, the university has in the past few years gone against the Egyptian government on certain key issues, including that of birth control is political rather than religious. It springs from the militants' deep-rooted suspicions of Western intentions. These suspicions were born during the struggle of Muslim countries for liberation from Western colonialism and continue until the present day because these countries largely remain under Western domination. Accordingly, birth control is seen by them as a deep-laid genocidal plot against Muslims to weaken them by reducing their numbers. These genocidal suspicions are widespread in the Indian Muslim community. Since the world population of Muslims is almost one billion and increasing rapidly, these fears are imaginary and groundless. The Islamists conveniently ignore the fact that the two largest Muslim countries, Indonesia and Bangladesh, both of them devoutly Islamic, have accepted and successfully implemented birth control programmes for economic reasons. And these programmes have not weakened these countries but enabled them to improve the economic situation of their people.

## Clinton Cuba policy pleases conservatives

By Peter Bate  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. President Bill Clinton's hardball tactics against Cuba's Communist regime may dismay his liberal supporters but they are winning kudos from some of his fiercest conservative critics.

Last week, the United States announced measures to back up its new policy of turning back Cuban "boat-people" refugees by restricting cash remittances to Cuba, cutting back charter flights to the island and stepping up propaganda broadcasts directed against President Fidel Castro.

Mr. Clinton's get-tough measures included ending a 28-year policy of welcoming virtually every Cuban who sought political asylum.

To stem the tide of boat people now fleeing Cuba, Mr. Clinton announced Friday the coast guard would intercept refugees and send them to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba.

He said Mr. Castro could not dictate U.S. immigration policy.

Removing the welcome mat, however, has so far failed to dissuade thousands of Cubans from trying to cross a dangerous 145-km strait to Florida on rickety rafts.

A State Department official, who asked not to be named, said the new measures could take more time to work.

"Our experience in the case of Haitian boat people suggests that restrictions take a while to work," he

Senator Connie Mack, a Republican from the state of Florida, where most Cuban exiles reside, also said Mr. Clinton had taken the right course.

"The administration's announcement on isolating Castro will send a strong message to the Cuban people that we are with them in their struggle for freedom," Mr. Mack said.

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"Our experience in the case of Haitian boat people suggests that restrictions take a while to work," he



needs to map out a strategy to deal with Cuba in which all parties involved will have to participate," said former U.S. official Bernard Aronson.

Mr. Aronson, a former assistant secretary for inter-American affairs in the Bush and Clinton administrations, said some of the

decisions regarding refugees could lead to more trouble.

"The administration is acting on the assumption that they will prevent people from leaving Cuba. But if it doesn't, we'll have a substantial refugee problem," he told Reuters.

Larry Birns, head of the liberal council on hemispheric affairs, said Mr. Clinton's moves will only increase the exodus.

"The root cause of this problem is economic, not political," Mr. Birns said.

"The Clinton administration has once again proven its unerring instinct to do the wrong thing."

Mr. Birns argued that Mr. Castro was finally doing what every U.S. administration had pressured him to do for the past three decades — to let his people go.

"This is another example of double-standard diplomacy," Mr. Birns said. "China, which has a far worse record on human rights abuses, gets Most Favoured Nation status while Cuba has been under an embargo for 32 years."

The State Department officially acknowledged that the United States has acted differently when dealing with other Communist regimes but argued that Cuba's case was singular.

"We want to see real political and economic reforms in Cuba, not mere statements. Castro has made changes in the past but he's always backtracked on them," said the official.

"We're not saying that he has to be on the next boat out, but we want to see real reform before we consider adjusting our policies."

## France and Algeria: When the status quo is no longer supportable

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The United States has Sudan on its list of outlaw states, saying that it sponsors Islamic fundamentalist terrorism.

The French also fear that a fundamentalist victory would inspire not only much of the French-speaking intellectual and middle classes to look for refuge in France, but also thousands of ordinary Algerians who do not want to live under a fundamentalist government.

A number of large conclusions have been drawn from Sudan's handing over of Carlos the terrorist to French justice. The principal significance, however, is what it reveals — or, better, confirms — about French foreign policy.

One of the two major preoccupations of French policy today is Islamic fundamentalism. (The other is France's relationship with Germany, in the context of Europe's development). Algeria, which until 1962 was a "département" of France itself, not a colony, retains a special relationship with France in terms of the legal status of Algerians in France and their right to travel between the countries.

France also has considerable investment in Algerian economy, and until now has retained a significant influence in Algerian education, and cultural life.

All of this is jeopardised

by the attempt of extreme Islamists to drive all foreigners and foreign influences out of Algeria.

The French also fear that a fundamentalist victory would inspire not only much of the French-speaking intellectual and middle classes to look for refuge in France, but also thousands of ordinary Algerians who do not want to live under a fundamentalist government.

France's intention is to gain Sudan's help in dealing with the Algerian fundamentalists. Not in communicating or negotiating with them — that could be done in a Paris restaurant — but in influencing them.

The supposed theoretician of Sudan's military government is a Paris-and-London-trained Muslim intellectual and academic, Hassan Tourabi, now dean of the Khartoum University Law School, formerly a high government official. He is accused by many in the West, as well as by the Algerian and some other secular Arab governments, of being an ideologist of foreign policy.

France's Interior Minister, Charles Pasqua, recently criticised Germany and the United States because fundamentalist militants are allowed to function there and publicise their cause. His police have been rounding up and interning Algerians in France thought to be linked to fundamentalist militancy.

However, he is himself quoted as criticising the Iranian revolution for its "lack of maturity and of values." He says the fundamentalist government of Saudi Arabia is merely a family dictatorship, where, among its other faults, "the situation of women is very bad." His own country, he says, is trying "an experiment which has only begun," but which is meant to avoid the excesses or errors of Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The French believe that he is at least a man the West

can talk with, while acknowledging (as a profile of him by the French journalist Gilles Miller observes) that he speaks "a double language," simultaneously lending support to the demands of the most radical fundamentalists abroad and "affirming to the West that he is capable of controlling them — but in influencing them.

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The French position is conservative, in the sense described by the 19th century American writer Ambrose Bierce. He said the conservative "is enamoured of existing evils, as distinguished from the liberal, who wishes to replace them with others."

The French have always attempted to maintain stability and order (and peace) in their African zone of influence by supporting the powers in place, so long as those established powers did not become totally repellent. When that happens, Paris tries discreetly, usually but not always with success, to facilitate their replacement.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names will be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

The Los Angeles Times

## LETTERS

## The AIDS scenario: In perspective

To the Editor:

I HAVE read with a great deal of interest the article entitled "Young medical student brings home update on AIDS" (Jordan Times, Aug. 23), and the subsequent commentary letter on this article which appeared in the Jordan Times, Aug. 27.

Although I would subscribe to the argument presented by the commentator in terms of the serious measures that AIDS, I would support the notion that this can only be of this epidemic.

In order for this to be done in as rational and as objective a manner as possible, however, an objective stand needs to be undertaken that would tell where we stand as far as this global problem is concerned.

As of June 1993, a total of 718,894 cases of AIDS worldwide have been reported by the World Health Organisation (WHO). WHO experts acknowledge that this figure represents only a fraction of the actual number which children, since the beginning of the epidemic up to

Interestingly enough, however, only 1,799 cases of AIDS (WHO classification) out of the world total of 718,894.

This figures, it is fair to say, put the AIDS problem in this country and the region in the appropriate perspective, and should guide our decision-makers into adopting sound policies that ensure this situation does not change.

Plans are in

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and

The shinkin

# Features



JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1994 7

## Inference

tin" by opponents. The Islamists' objective is birth control, not springs from the major Western intentions. The struggle of Muslim countries for freedom from Western colonialism and continue until the present day because the countries largely remain under Western domination. Accordingly, birth control is seen by them as a Muslim's weaken their numbers, reducing their number. These genocidal suspicous are widespread in the Muslim community. Since the world population of Muslims is almost billion and increasing rapidly, these fears are imagine and groundless. The fact that the two largest Muslim countries, India and Bangladesh, have accepted and successfully implemented birth control programmes for economic reasons has weakened these countries but enabled them to improve the economic situation of their people.

heric affairs, said Clinton's moves will increase the exodus. "The root cause of the problem is economic and political," Mr. Clinton says. "The Clinton administration has once again proved its unerring instinct to do the right thing." Mr. Clinton argued that Castro was facing what every US administration had forced him to do for the last three decades — to let people go. "This is another example of double-standard democracy," Mr. Clinton said. "China, which has a worse record on human rights abuses, gets its vaunted-Nation status. Cuba has been under embargo for 32 years." The State Department officially acknowledged the United States has differently when dealing with other Communist regimes than argued that Castro was singular. "We want to see political and economic developments in Cuba, not just changes in the government," said the official. "We're not saying that we're on the next best, but we want to see results before we consider changing our policies."

The conclusions given by the mayors were discussed at the International Colloquium of Mayors, which was held at the United Nations in New York on Aug. 18-19.

Wally N'Dow, who heads the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and is the secretary general of the U.N. Conference on Human Settlements, which will be held in Istanbul, in June, 1996, calls the problem confronting all cities today among the most urgent now facing humanity. "The word 'crisis' has been overused," he emphasizes, "but no other word will do to describe the dilemma of our cities."

"I cannot stress too strongly," he adds, "that this crisis is of truly global proportions. Not one of us is untouched by the repercussions of unemployment, homelessness, crime, drugs in school and on the streets, waterborne diseases, old plagues such as tuberculosis and new ones such as AIDS, pollution, gridlocked traffic and crumbling infrastructure. These affect everyone, in urban as well as rural areas, and it is urgent and vital that all countries — industrialised and developing alike — cooperate to overcome them together."

The results of the survey of mayors will form part of the UNDP contribution to the U.N. Conference on

A SURVEY of mayors from every continent shows that unemployment constitutes the number one urban problem in cities around the world, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says. The second most serious problems urban residents face is inadequate housing, the survey of some 135 mayors said.

The two least pressing problems of 12 listed in the survey were discrimination and insufficient civil society participation — although cities as diverse as Beijing, China and Amman, did identify water problems as their prime concern. Lack of funds to meet urban needs was not listed in the survey, although some mayors volunteered that as their primary problem.

"Within the next few years, more than half of the world's population for the first time in history will be living in cities and towns rather than in rural areas, adding urgency to the search for solutions to urban problems," says James Gustave Speth, UNDP administrator. "Already, 60 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the average country is generated in cities."

The 12 categories of problems listed in the UNDP survey, and the number of mayors who identified them as "most severe," were as follows (They were permitted more than one choice): Unemployment — 63; inadequate housing — 43; insufficient solid waste management — 38; violence/crime/personal insecurity — 36; poverty — 34; inadequate sanitation/sewerage — 33; air pollution — 32; inadequate transportation — 29; inadequate water supply — 24; inadequate social services (health, education) — 22; insufficient civil society participation — 22; discrimination (ethnic, women, poor) — 14.

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URBAN NIGHTMARES: Unemployment is a problem to which most major cities in the world have failed to find appropriate solutions (File photo)

## Urban problems alike worldwide

### Unemployment, inadequate housing are top concerns

Human Settlements, which will focus on the problems caused by the global urban explosion, as well as to the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in March of next year.

"We feel that by asking mayors around the world to identify their main concerns, UNDP could illustrate that urban problems are more than just localised ones, but rather part of broad global patterns," Mr. Speth says. "By bringing the mayors together at the colloquium, local solutions to local problems can be shared globally and organisations like UNDP can see what works best in which locations."

Almost half of the mayors from both developing and developed countries who answered the survey called unemployment a severe or very severe problem.

For example, Hans Klimt, mayor of Västervik, located on the Swedish island of Gotland, said that almost 40 per cent of young people between the ages of 18-24 are without "real work" at this moment.

Ad J. E. Havermans, of The Hague, Netherlands, said "we have 10,000 people unemployed now, a large percentage of whom are migrants. By the year 2000, unemployment is expected to increase to 50,000."

The results of the survey of mayors will form part of the UNDP contribution to the U.N. Conference on

people in the city."

Boston is one American city in which the mayor identified unemployment as the prime concern — as did mayors from cities in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America, but Boston's next two most pressing problems are probably more American — high school dropouts and a lack of day care.

Unemployment leads to other serious problems, many of the mayors said. For example, Patrus Anaias Belo Horizonte, Brazil, says "poor families without jobs or with low salaries cause terrible social problems. Their children get involved with drugs, prostitution and crime."

The United Nations has deemed metropolitan Toronto the "most multicultural city in the world" and it is well-known as a safe and livable metropolis," said the office of the mayor. "However, the current recession, together with the downgrading of responsibility for services from the national (Federal) to the municipal level, has resulted in extreme stress on municipal and community-based social supports.

In problem other than unemployment, the survey found that inadequate water supply drew more concern in Latin America than in other regions; inadequate sanitation/sewerage was of more concern in Africa and Western Europe; air pollution was of major concern everywhere, except in Africa; violence/crime/personal insecurity was the most serious problem sparked the most concern in Eastern and

Western Europe, Latin America and North America; poverty drew more severe rankings in Africa and Latin America than elsewhere.

The survey also illustrates how cities in the same regions often have similar concerns, along with some unique ones.

#### North America

In Toronto, unemployment and poverty are considered jointly to be the most vexing problem, with racism number two and violence number three.

Residents of Amman, also see inadequate water as their most severe problem. "The lack of water is due to a lack of resources and damaged or deteriorated pipes, treatment plants, etc. The Water Ministry is doing its best to solve this problem," the mayor's office said.

Residents of Amman, also see inadequate water as their most severe problem. "The lack of water is due to a lack of resources and damaged or deteriorated pipes, treatment plants, etc. The Water Ministry is doing its best to solve this problem," the mayor's office said.

The mayor of Surakarta, Indonesia, did not list any single problem as "most severe," but classified air pollution, unemployment and poverty on the list of problems. He also cited "overflow migration of rural populations; unauthorised street vendors; and the people's indifference in

sustaining a clean and healthy environment."

#### Latin America

Mexico City, reflecting its position as one of the world's megacities with more than 15 million inhabitants, identified seven different problems as "most severe": air pollution, inadequate water supply, violence and crime, inadequate social services, poverty, unemployment and inadequate transportation.

In Rio de Janeiro, violence and personal insecurity was identified in the survey as the top concern of the 5.6 million residents among the 12 problems listed. In Santiago, Chile, Mayor Jaime Ravinet named pollution as the city's biggest concern. Mr. Ravinet, classified five other problems as next in severity — inadequate housing, inadequate sanitation, violence and crime, poverty and inadequate transportation.

Personal insecurity and violence are prime concerns in many other Latin American cities. In the Colombian city of Medellin, for example, the mayor listed violence and crime as his city's most pressing problem, with the quality of education as second and inadequate housing as third.

**Central and Eastern Europe**

Unemployment is a major problem throughout this

own unique problems, of course. In Berlin, the mayor, Christine Bergmann, says that levelling living standards of the former eastern and western sectors of the city has been the number one issue since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

"Bus drivers who live in the former eastern part of the city, for example, earn only 80 per cent of what a driver of the same bus, who lives in the western part, gets," says Mayor Bergmann.

But she second most pressing problem in Berlin is unemployment, which was also the case in Munich, where inadequate housing was listed as the number one concern.

In both the British city of Leeds and the Spanish city of Bilbao, unemployment is also the main area of concern. Unemployment is the main problem in Helsinki, Finland as well, where it has hit 18 per cent. Youth unemployment and long-term unemployment are growing problems in Helsinki, which the city government fears will lead to a permanent marginalisation of our young people."

**Western Europe**

Many cities have their

region, which is still in the midst of its historic transition from state-controlled to market-oriented economies.

The mayor of the Slovenian town of Maribor, after saying that unemployment was his major problem, included a joke in his reply to the survey to illustrate the point:

"Two friends meet. The first says, I have a job, but I don't work!" The second says, I work all day, but I don't have a job!"

In the Lithuanian town of Siauliai, 7,000 people are unemployed out of the 18,000 people of working age.

In Kaunas, a city of 420,000 in Lithuania, environmental pollution is considered the most urgent problem, with unemployment second. Kaunas, one of the largest industrial complexes in the Baltic states, is located at the confluence of the two biggest Lithuanian rivers, but the city still has no water treatment facilities and sends all of its polluted water into the Baltic Sea.

In Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, violence and crime, along with air pollution, are the top problems.

#### Africa

Fred Yiga, mayor of Kampala, the capital of Uganda, said that unemployment and air pollution were the city's two most severe problems. Four other problems the mayor identified as severe were inadequate housing, inadequate sewerage, poverty and inadequate social services.

"Poverty and unemployment, and poor or inadequate health and education services, are especially prevalent among the city's disadvantaged," said the mayor of Kampala, a city of 900,000. "Stimulating agriculture and the informal sector" were cited as the means for changing that.

In Dakar, Senegal, Mayor Mamadou Diop said that insufficient solid waste management was the city's most persistent problem.

The mayor of the small city of Masvingo (52,000 inhabitants) in Zimbabwe identified inadequate housing, poverty and unemployment and inadequate social services as his city's most pressing concerns.

In Mauritius, the Black River District Council/Bamboo identified "poverty, alcohol abuse and lack of education" as the three main issues affecting social and economic development" of the area's 46,000 residents.

Rahat, lists as its second most severe problem one that would be seen in few, if any, U.S. cities — deterioration of the old city.

Assisting UNDP and Habitat officials in undertaking the survey and organising the colloquium were the International Union of Local Authorities, the United Towns Organisation, the Summit of the World's Major Cities and Metropolis.

The survey has shown us that the severe problems that hurt cities everywhere require concerted action, not only by mayors, but by nations and international organisations like UNDP," says UNDP administrator Mr. Speth. "This will enable us to help communities to help themselves."

## An army in poor shape

By Christian Burckhardt  
Reuter

MOSCOW — The Moscow press has already dubbed it "the year of the great retreat."

But 1994, when Russian troops leave Germany and the Baltics after half a century defending the Soviet empire, is also the year of the actual number which 1,700 cases of AIDS in the Mediterranean Region total of 718,000 AIDS cases as well. The AIDS problem is appropriate perspective. The epidemic up to now has been contained, but the number of military men already matches targets

outlined by President Boris Yeltsin for the end of 1995 — comes despite the withdrawal of some 600,000 soldiers from Eastern Europe since the iron curtain fell.

The army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda described the withdrawal as a huge achievement. "Military troop movements on this scale in times of peace are unprecedented," it said.

The last Russian soldiers leave Germany on Wednesday which is also date when the final units must be gone from the Baltic states, just over a year ago.

The Soviet Union annexed the two states in 1940 and troops have been based there since. Russian soldiers left Lithuania, the third Baltic state, just over a year ago.

Western military attaches said the new, leaner Russian army faced many problems, including corruption, poor discipline and draft dodging.

Many units were little more than "Potemkin villages", which appeared on paper but had nothing to back them up.

The Potemkin villages of imperial Russia were — at least as the tale is told —

built in the 18th century to impress Catherine the Great on trips through the country. In fact they were nothing but facades or empty shells.

Russia is meeting its international promises on troop reduction, if only because the army cannot get hold of enough men," said one Western diplomat.

The defense ministry admits that only 80 per cent of potential conscripts ever make it to the army's recruiting stations and 30 per cent of them fail fitness tests.

"Conscription is in a catastrophic state," General Staff Officer Anatoly Kvashnin told a recent parliamentary hearing.

The diplomat said a shortage of conscripts and regular soldiers had resulted in huge gaps in Russia's military structure.

"On paper the air force has 12,000 pilots, but less than 4,000 of them are really ready for action," he said.

"For the last time the

By Andrew Hill  
Reuter

DUBLIN — The Northern Ireland conflict is approaching a crossroads as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) prepares to offer Britain something that 18,000 troops, 25 years of guerrilla war and 3,000 lives have failed to win — a lasting ceasefire.

The IRA, trying to capitalise on what all concerned say is the best chance of peace for years, is expected to declare an open-ended truce some time next month in the hope of winning better terms from a peace proposal made by Britain and Ireland.

Whether London or Dublin accept or reject the gesture, such a truce would launch one of the world's most intractable conflicts into unknown territory and give the formidable guerrilla group an unofficial seat at the negotiating table.

Sources close to the Irish Republican Army say a decision is imminent but the exact timing is unclear.

A ceasefire will put the onus on Britain to be more

## Northern Ireland conflict at 25-year crossroads

flexible towards guerrillas whose sole reason for existence is to attack British sovereignty over a province of around 1.5 million people living behind a 70-year-old enforced border.

It will also raise the hackles of a 60 per cent Protestant majority in Northern Ireland, whose contempt for the British government is matched only by the fervour of their allegiance to the United Kingdom and its monarchy.

As entrenched in their Britishness as white South Africans were in their apartheid, Protestants already fear that an end to a war that meant they lived in a permanent state of siege could spell the end to 300-year-old ties with Britain.

Their own military "pro-

legitimate political force. But it will throw down the gauntlet to the British government and its Irish ally to push ahead with a peace blueprint, deadlocked for almost nine months, despite loud cries of "sell-out" by the province's entrenched Protestant majority.

The IRA's political mouthpiece, Sinn Fein, will be able to trumpet that it alone has brought an effective peace and argue it does not matter whether it is for good or not — it is real.

After years in the political shadows, Sinn Fein and its leader Gerry Adams will move firmly into the lime-light, playing the peacemaker role they have tried to carve for themselves over the past five years.

It will, Republican sources say, embolden Mr. Adams to demand that Britain make immediate concessions such as freeing some of the 400 prisoners currently being held for security offences in Britain and Northern Ireland.

This will be a short-term demand to show hardline Republicans that the ceasefire is a worthwhile gamble.

## Investment and management of human resources are of critical importance—UNCTAD

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) — A World Investment Report issued by UNCTAD concludes that investment and management of human resources are of "critical importance" to governments and transnational corporations (TNCs).

The report notes that "unprecedented" global competition has brought reconsideration of sources of competitive advantages, and "undoubtedly, the quality of human resources is at the centre of more competitive advantages, as created assets... increasingly play a key role in advancing economic development."

But the distinctive capabilities of TNCs derive to a great extent from their ability to recruit, train and motivate creative individuals. "Investment in, and the effective use and management of, human resources are, therefore, of critical — perhaps of the most critical — importance

for both governments and TNCs in today's world."

This means that "upgrading of human resources should occupy a central place in the policies of governments intent on promoting economic development." And any such policy will automatically, in principle, make a country more attractive to foreign investors.

The report also comments that "Perhaps the greatest potential for human resource development lies in closer cooperative relationships between TNCs, trade unions and governments in the identification of skill shortages, training priorities and appropriate policy initiatives."

The World Investment Report 1994 by the Division on Transnational Corporations and Investments of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) notes that "today, the response to unem-

ployment must take place against the background of a more integrated world economy, and one in which TNCs (transnational corporations) are, inevitably, among the more important vehicles through which any chosen agenda for economic stability and prosperity takes effect."

Foreign investment is naturally among TNCs' leading activities, and foreign direct investment (FDI) flows began recovering in 1993, reaching \$195 billion after a two-year decline from \$232 billion in 1990 to only \$171 billion in 1992.

The decline of world FDI outflows during 1991 and 1992 consisted primarily of reduced outflows from Japan and, to a lesser extent, from some western European countries, mainly to the United States," the report says.

FDI "outflows from Germany and Japan have not yet started to recover, but they stopped decreasing."

## Japan unemployment worsens

TOKYO (R) — Japan's unemployment rate rose to its highest level in seven years in July, showing that the labour market is still haunted by the nation's worst postwar recession and unlikely to recover in the near future.

The government's Management and Coordination Agency announced Tuesday that the number of jobless people totalled 1.88 million in July, up from 1.83 million in June and 1.59 million a year earlier.

The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in July stood at three per cent, up from 2.9 per cent in June and 2.5 per cent a year before. The rate was last at three per cent in June, 1987, when the economy was going through a

sharp caused by the strong yen.

"It is certain that the economy is heading towards recovery, but the unemployment rate is a lagging indicator and moves behind the actual economy," chief cabinet secretary Kozo Igarashi told reporters soon after the release of the data.

"For the time being, severe conditions are expected to continue," he said.

Stabilising the labour market is a very important issue and the government will continue to take steps to do so, Mr. Igarashi added.

Analysts said it normally took six months to a year for the effects of economic improvements to show up in the unemployment data and pre-

dicted the jobless rate might soon surpass its record high of 3.1 per cent reached in May 1987.

Toshiki Masui, a Tokai Bank economist, said the rate could climb as high as 3.3 per cent, but added the tempo of the increase should be moderate.

The underlying trend in the jobless data is moving sideways or slightly higher, Mr. Masui said.

"It is uncertain whether the nation's unemployment rate is moving upwards or coming to a turning point," a Management and Coordination Agency official told a briefing. "What I can say now is that the jobless rate has been hovering at a high level since late last year."

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## OECD nudges Bundesbank, urges German fiscal reforms

BONN (R) — Germany's prospects for long-term economic growth and the survival of its respected "social market" economic model are threatened by excessive costs and lagging innovation in industry, the OECD has said.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said it was optimistic for growth in Europe's powerhouse economy and gave the government good marks on fiscal reforms.

In its annual report on Germany, the 23-nation task force said the Bundesbank had room to lower its lending interest rates further

and give a boost to domestic investment, which was still lagging behind export demand.

The German economy is expected to recover further, Dieter Menke, the OECD representative in Bonn, said in presenting the report at a news conference.

"Industry is picking up, but the demand is coming from exports while domestic demand remains weak," he pointed out.

The Bundesbank is making progress on inflation, although M3 money supply, its key indicator, is overshooting its target range. But taking these developments into consideration, "there

may be some further scope for reductions to give support to recovery," the OECD said.

The OECD forecast German gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 1.8 per cent this year and 2.6 per cent next year. This is less optimistic than the most recent government predictions, which see German GDP growth of up to 2.5 per cent this year.

The report sees German unemployment at around 10 per cent this year and next year and pan-German inflation of 3.1 per cent in 1993 and 1.9 per cent in 1995.

The report reviews efforts

to pull out of recession, takes a critical look at monetary and fiscal policies and suggests action that could be taken to improve German industry's competitiveness.

"A clear and consistent strategy is needed for the second half of the decade in order to scale back the public sector and alleviate the fiscal burden," the report said.

The government should phase out the "solidarity tax" — a 7.5 per cent surcharge on income tax bills to be reintroduced in January — and cut subsidies to industry, privatise more state holdings, and better target social welfare

benefits, it said.

It should improve the environment for innovative activity, lower regulatory barriers on new activities and speed up plant approval procedures.

It should cut subsidies to industry further and only grant tax credits if they are non-discriminatory, such as for research and development.

"Implementation of reforms along these lines would go a long way towards strengthening the German 'model' of the social market economy," the report said.

Key sectors like machinery, chemicals and cars have been falling behind in pro-

ductivity and innovation. The decline is even more noticeable in high-tech sectors — office machines, computers, telecoms equipment, information technology and aerospace.

"In such area Germany has fallen behind not only the United States and Japan, but also such European countries as Switzerland, the United Kingdom and France," the OECD said.

It also called for more competition in telecommunications and an opening of energy markets, where German prices are among the highest in the OECD, and extending opening hours in the retail sector.

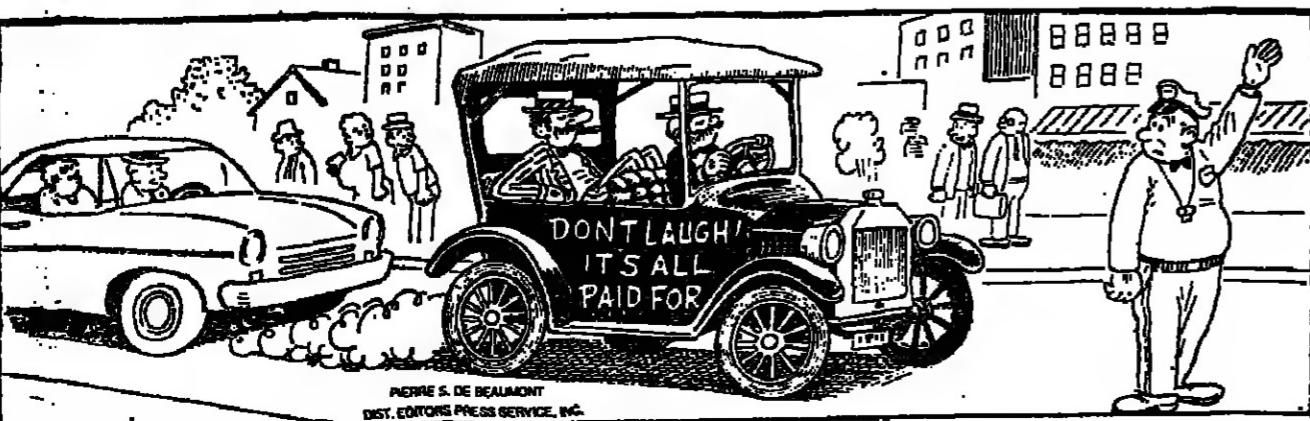
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Matt 'n Jeff



## Task force calls for Asia free-trade zone

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A task force called Monday for establishing a free-trade zone joining the United States, Japan, China and other Pacific Rim countries by 2020.

A group of business experts and former government officials from 17 countries in the region issued the recommendation in their proposed agenda for the Nov. 15 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) in Indonesia.

President Bill Clinton hosted last year's meeting in Seattle, Washington, and called for a solution to the huge U.S. deficits with China and Japan. Washington has threatened to impose sanctions on the two countries unless trade barriers are dropped.

Officially Libya's gross domestic product (GDP) is put at four billion dinars, or \$13 billion at the official rate of \$3.37 to the dinar, oil revenues accounting for nearly all of it.

The state spends some \$6 billion on imports of essential goods, which are subsidised and sold at a quarter of their real value.

Libya has substantially cut military expenditure since 1990 and financial support for

## Oil keeps Libya afloat despite sanctions

NICOSIA (AFP) — Black gold has been the main economic force behind Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi helping him build his 25-year-old regime and keeping his country afloat despite tough U.N. sanctions.

As he celebrates Thursday the anniversary of the 1969 coup which brought him to power, he may well have occasion to be grateful for his oil reserves.

The oil boom in the 1970s just after he seized power provided the revenue to lay down Libya's current infrastructure.

And although the sanctions imposed in April 1992 have created economic hardship, the blow has been tempered because oil exports escaped the embargo.

But technical problems resulting from the embargo have forced down oil production, experts say. Tripoli now produces less than 1.4 billion barrels per day (b/d) compared with 1.7 b/d in 1992, according to the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), a weekly review published in Cyprus.

The report by the blue-ribbon task force, Eminent Persons Group, called for leaders to "commit the region to achieve free trade in all goods, services, capital and investment by the 2020 with implementation to begin by 2000."

The group recommended that rich nations in the region knock down all trade barriers by as early as 2000 but gave newly industrialised countries 15 years and countries with per capita incomes below \$1,000 — such as China and Indonesia — the full 20 years.

Fred Bergsten, chairman of the group, is to present the findings in Jakarta Wednesday to resume a stalled bilateral human rights dialogue to the U.S. administration's "pragmatic, common sense policy" that has, since May, refocused relations on to

trade.

U.S. companies have signed deals worth "nearly \$5 billion" during the trip, said Mr. Brown, the most senior

U.S. official to visit here since President Bill Clinton's May decision to lift China's most favoured nation (MFN) trade status from human rights.

Embassy officials put the precise figure at \$4.8 billion, of which some \$2 billion had direct U.S. content, but gave no further details.

The deals assure "continued economic growth and the creation of jobs in the United States and, just as important, ensure the continued development that is taking place in China," said Mr. Brown.

More deals are expected to be signed during the delegation's visits to the eastern metropolis and the southern city of Guangzhou.

Mr. Brown said Tuesday's

agreement proved that "commercial engagement has had a greater effect than the threat of commercial disengagement."

Chinese President Jiang Zemin, in a meeting the same day with Mr. Brown, praised Mr. Clinton's "wise" decision over MFN, saying "there is no excuse for us to confront with each other, but we only have the responsibility to develop our cooperation," Xinhua reported.

In a speech to businessmen earlier Tuesday Mr. Brown

criticised China's intellectual property protection laws as inadequate and lacking enforcement, warning such a situation not only made the Chinese market unattractive.

agriculture, and a huge canal 4,000 kilometres long is being built at a cost of \$2.5 billion.

Some 1.5 million children now go to school compared with 300,000.

But Libya's planes remain grounded because of the embargo and Libyans can only leave the country by road via Egypt or Tunisia, or by sea via Malta.

Officials estimate the embargo has cost Libya about \$3 billion in lost revenue.

And they blame it for the deaths of more than 1,600 people in road accidents and of 350 babies and 150 mothers, due to a shortage of medicines.

Libya has also not paid off its military debts to Russia since Moscow stopped supporting Tripoli at the United Nations.

But its foreign debt "cannot be enormous," according to one Western diplomat in Tripoli.

Meanwhile Col. Qadhafi continues to call for the embargo to be lifted, gaining the support of some Arab and African countries.

## U.S., China sign \$5b of deals

BEIJING (AFP) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown ended official talks here Tuesday, hailing the success of Washington's new policy of commercial engagement with China in securing nearly \$5 billion worth of

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## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

We close out this month on a high planetary note with a triple trine that energises all our activities and points us in the right direction. Your different ideas could prove upsetting to others.

ARIES: (March 21 to October 22) You have good ideas which should be carried through later in the day for best results. Make this a worthwhile day to get many things done.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get an early start to handle important business matters so you can engage in social activities later in the day with close friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Wait until the afternoon before dealing with a difficult associate for best results. Plan the future to get all your desires.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a good day to take on difficult tasks which becomes easier for you now. Take treatments to improve your health and appearance.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a heavy work load, so get an early start and you can plow right through it easily. Relax at home tonight with your loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Wishes of some family members may not meet with your approval, but come to a happy compromise. Be logical in your actions today.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1994 9

**Financial Markets** Jordan Times  
in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency               | New York Close<br>Date 29/8/94 | Tokyo Close<br>Date 30/8/94 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sterling Pound         | 1.5570                         | 1.5348                      |
| Deutsche Mark          | 1.5773                         | 1.5767                      |
| Swiss Franc            | 1.3327                         | 1.3325                      |
| French Franc           | 5.3985                         | 5.4130**                    |
| Japanese Yen           | 100.00                         | 99.72                       |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2090                         | 1.2085**                    |

\* USD Per NTM

\*\* European Opening + 100 basis points

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 30/8/1994

| Currency               | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar            | 4.56  | 4.75   | 5.00   | 5.50    |
| Sterling Pound         | 4.75  | 5.25   | 5.75   | 6.56    |
| Deutsche Mark          | 4.68  | 4.75   | 4.81   | 5.12    |
| Swiss Franc            | 8.93  | 4.06   | 4.25   | 4.50    |
| French Franc           | 5.25  | 5.37   | 5.62   | 5.75    |
| Japanese Yen           | 8.12  | 2.12   | 2.25   | 2.50    |
| European Currency Unit | 5.54  | 5.72   | 6.12   | 6.54    |

Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding 7 J. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 30/8/1994

| Currency       | Bid    | Offer  |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar    | 0.6980 | 0.7000 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.0705 | 1.0750 |
| Deutsche Mark  | 0.4421 | 0.4430 |
| Swiss Franc    | 0.5232 | 0.5258 |
| French Franc   | 0.1295 | 0.1299 |
| Japanese Yen   | 0.6975 | 0.7010 |
| Dutch Guilder  | 0.3939 | 0.3959 |
| Swedish Krona  | *****  | *****  |
| Italian Lira*  | 0.0438 | 0.0440 |
| Belgian Franc  | *****  | *****  |

\* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 30/8/1994

| Currency       | Bid      | Offer    |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.8350   | 1.8550   |
| Lebanese Lira* | 0.040450 | 0.041875 |
| Saudi Riyal    | 0.1856   | 0.1872   |
| Kuwaiti Dinar  | 2.3100   | 2.3450   |
| Qatari Rial    | 0.1910   | 0.1935   |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2000   | 0.2150   |
| Omani Rial     | 1.8000   | 1.8200   |
| UAE Dirham     | 0.1890   | 0.1919   |
| Greek Drachma* | 0.2725   | 0.3175   |
| Cypriot Pound  | 1.3975   | 1.4950   |

Per 100

## Lockheed, Martin Marietta to merge in new mega-deal

NEW YORK (AP) — Aircraft manufacturer Lockheed and defence contractor Martin Marietta are to merge in a \$10 billion mega-deal, the companies announced early Tuesday.

The new company will be called Lockheed Martin with annual sales of around \$23 billion and a payroll of 170,000 employees.

Lockheed and Martin Marietta said in their joint statement that the merger of their stocks would allow them to cut production costs while serving their government and civilian customers.

The deal is the latest in a series of mergers over the last few months between giant U.S. companies from computers to telecommunications to defence industries.

The end of the cold war has been sorely felt in the U.S. defence industries with the government slashing its ex-

penditure in a bid to reduce its huge budget deficit.

"This merger is the next logical step in the continued growth and prosperity of Lockheed and Martin Marietta and is consistent with our strong histories of delivering quality products," said Lockheed chairman and chief executive Daniel Tellep.

Under the terms of the agreement, Lockheed shareholders will get 1.63 shares of stock in the new company for each share they own. Shareholders of Martin Marietta get one new share for each share they have.

Mr. Tellep would be the chairman and chief executive of the new company, while Martin Marietta Chairman Nurman Augustine would be president and would become chief executive when Mr. Tellep retires.

Similarly, Lockheed, based in Calabasas, California, in 1993 purchased General Dynamics F-16 fighter aircraft business.

"Lockheed Martin will provide the opportunity to significantly reduce costs to the U.S. government and other customers, preserve critical elements of our nation's defence industrial base and strengthen our abilities to serve customers on a global basis," Lockheed's Tellep said.

Mr. Antakli said detailed studies would be submitted to Syria's Supreme Investment Council, headed by the prime minister, for final approval.

There are several major U.S. companies working in the oil industry in Syria, which is a key player in the

## U.S. motor giant plans assembly plant in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — U.S.-brokered Middle East peace process and began to move towards a free market economy about four years ago.

Mr. Antakli said the shareholding company, the Syrian-American Industries Corporation, would build its plant in the northern city of Aleppo.

The company would produce 5,000 cars, 10,000 four-wheel drive vehicles and 15,000 pick-up trucks a year and would have to provide 50 per cent of its production materials locally within 10 years. "We hope to reach this target within seven years instead of 10," Mr. Antakli said.

The plant, which will start production within 36 months of the project winning final approval, would create 5,000 new jobs, Mr. Antakli said.

A contract has been signed with G.M. to provide the plant with all its machinery and spare parts and to supervise production and management.

Mr. Antakli said detailed studies would be submitted to Syria's Supreme Investment Council, headed by the prime minister, for final approval.

There are several major U.S. companies working in the oil industry in Syria, which is a key player in the

ning whereas in many other countries they would have been scrapped or left to rot.

Recent economic laws and regulations allow some individuals to import cars but import duty, sometimes exceeding 400 per cent makes this very expensive. Money also has to be paid in hard currency. A Mercedes 500 model 1994 costs around 32 million Syrian pounds (\$640,000 at the black market rate).

It was not immediately clear how much the Syrian-assembled vehicles would cost.

But economic sources say the presence of U.S. companies in Syria shows that the investment climate is improving.

Around \$3 billion have been invested in projects in Syria since the issue of law number 10 in 1991 which encouraged Syrian and foreign investment.

Incentives include tax-free import of production tools

and exemption from income tax on projects for up to seven years.

## ITT, Cablevision to buy garden for \$1 billion cash

NEW YORK (R) — ITT Corp and its partner, Cablevision Systems, have said they will buy the world-famous Madison Square Garden arena, the New York Knicks basketball and New York Rangers hockey teams, for \$1.075 billion in cash from Viacom.

Madison Square Garden's properties also include a regional cable television service.

ITT, an hotel and financial services company, said at a news conference that initially it will control 85 per cent of the Garden venture, but within one year, Cablevision, a TV cable operator, will be an equal partner.

The Rangers were Stanley Cup champions this past season.

Viacom, which has accepted the offer, put the New York arena, the sports teams and the MSG television cable company on the auction block shortly after winning control earlier this year of entertainment giant Paramount Communications Inc. in a costly fight against QVC Inc.

In the process of buying Paramount, Viacom had built up a huge debt of \$9.7 billion.

Viacom said that it will use proceeds from the transaction to repay debt. The deal is expected to be completed in the fall.

Telecommunications Inc., the nation's largest cable TV operator, also bid for the Viacom properties.

Two analysts said the deal looked like plus for Viacom, and a big question mark for ITT Corp.

Sources said ITT and Cablevision said the companies will retain all of the Madison Square Garden properties and they have no plans to sell any of them.

ITT is already building a massive \$750 million hotel and casino in Las Vegas. It seized the landmark garden and the sports teams as prime entertainment assets.

Cablevision is the nation's fourth largest operator of cable television systems, with many of its customers in and around New York City and in the northeast United States.

## IMF to lend Senegal \$192m

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Monday it approved \$192 million in low-cost loans to help Senegal restore economic growth and reduce poverty after the devaluation of the CFA franc earlier this year.

The money, made available under the IMF's Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility, will be doled out over the next three years and will carry an interest charge of just ½ per cent.

The IMF said the franc devaluation has opened the way for Senegal to improve its competitiveness, with exports and tourism already showing signs of picking up.

"The medium-term strategy for 1994-97 aims at achieving both sustainable economic growth and financial viability, as well as returning to the pre-devaluation low inflation rate," the IMF said.

The cornerstone of the programme will be tight control of government finance and eventual elimination of the budget deficit. That will help contain and reduce the inflationary fallout from the devaluation.

"The government's strategy is expected to increase the standard of living of the population and reduce poverty," the IMF said.

## JORDAN MARKET PLACE



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## Jordan Soccer Federation's first division championship starts today

By Alesha Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's top soccer teams will be back in action starting Wednesday when the first division soccer championship kicks off with 12 teams taking part.

The prestigious division groups champions A Faisali, runners up Al Wihdat, Al Hussein, Al Qadissieh, Al Ahli, Al Arabi, Al Ramtha, Al Jazreh and newcomers Al Karman, Shabab Al Hussein, Al Jeel and Kufraoum.

Titleholders, Al Faisali, will be aiming to win their 26th title since the competition kicked off back in 1944 with only four teams — Al Urda, Al Ahli, Homenet and Al Faisali taking part.

The Kingdom's champions last year ended the season by adding quite a few records to Jordanian sports' archives.

Al Faisali won the title with a remarkable 57 goals cancelling the previous record of 47 by Al Ramtha in 1981.

They also maintained the most consistent form among

the 12 teams winning 17 of their 22 matches drawing in two and losing only 1-0 to Al Hussein.

During 1993, Al Faisali also won the Cup Winner's Cup and the Jordan Cup leaving only the Federation Shield to Al Ramtha.

The team's ace striker Jirayes Tadros also contributed with another record by winning the top scorer award with 19 goals.

Runners up Al Wihdat had a difficult season with a mutiny of veteran players. Their younger lineup of players nevertheless assured the club of a top standing though finishing with a comparative low 25-22 scoring record.

Al Wihdat, who last won the first division in 1991, are expected to give it all they've got this season. Their last major title was the Cup Winner's Cup in 1992.

Al Hussein and Al Qadissieh were the third and fourth teams and had good results throughout most of the competition last year.

Al Qadissieh's striker Mustafa Adam was second best

scorer with 16 goals. The team also had the best record in the second leg of the competition.

However, Al Hussein's players enter the competition with high spirits after their 2-1 win over Al Faisali last week when they won the first record in their club's history — the 1994 Federation Shield. Al Faisali had earlier secured the season's Cup Winner's Cup.

Runners up Al Wihdat had a difficult season with a mutiny of veteran players. Their younger lineup of players nevertheless assured the club of a top standing though finishing with a comparative low 25-22 scoring record.

In other ongoing competitions organised by the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), sixteen teams are now competing in the second division, 31 teams in the third division, while the fourth division includes the highest number of teams — 98 — which were divided into 25 groups.

The JSF this year announced some amendments to prizes for winners in the four respective divisions.

The first division champion will receive JD 5,000, and runner up JD 1,500.

The Federation Shield and Jordan Cup champions receive JD 2,000, while the Cup Winners' Cup champions get JD 1,500.

The second division champions receive JD 1,000 and the third division winner get JD 300.

The prizes for age-group competitions have been lowered, while the top scorer award has been set at JD 250.

In the first week of the competition, newcomers Shabab Al Hussein meet Al Jeel, Al Ramtha play Al Arabi, Al Wihdat meet Al Jazreh, Kufraoum take on Al Qadissieh, Al Ahli clash with Al Faisali, and second division champions Al Karmel face Al Hussein.

**AL FAISAL'S 1ST DIVISION RECORD:** 1944, 1945, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993.

## IOC opens 1st congress in 13 years

PARIS (AP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) opened its first congress in 13 years Monday with France's Prime Minister giving the strongest suggestion so far that Paris will bid to host the 2004 summer games.

"I would like to declare before you today a wish: That our country has the desire to welcome, at the beginning of the next century, the summer Olympic games," Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said in a speech opening the 12th IOC Congress.

While he did not specify a city or a year, it has been widely rumoured that Paris will bid for the 2004 games. Paris had been a candidate for the 1992 summer games, which were awarded to Barcelona. Another French city, Albertville, hosted the winter Olympics the same year.

Earlier, five parachutists fell from a near-cloudless sky, bringing with them the Olympic flame lit in Greece last week. They landed in front of the Eiffel Tower as a French climber rappelled 120 metre (400 feet) down from the second level of the tower, carrying an Olympic flag.

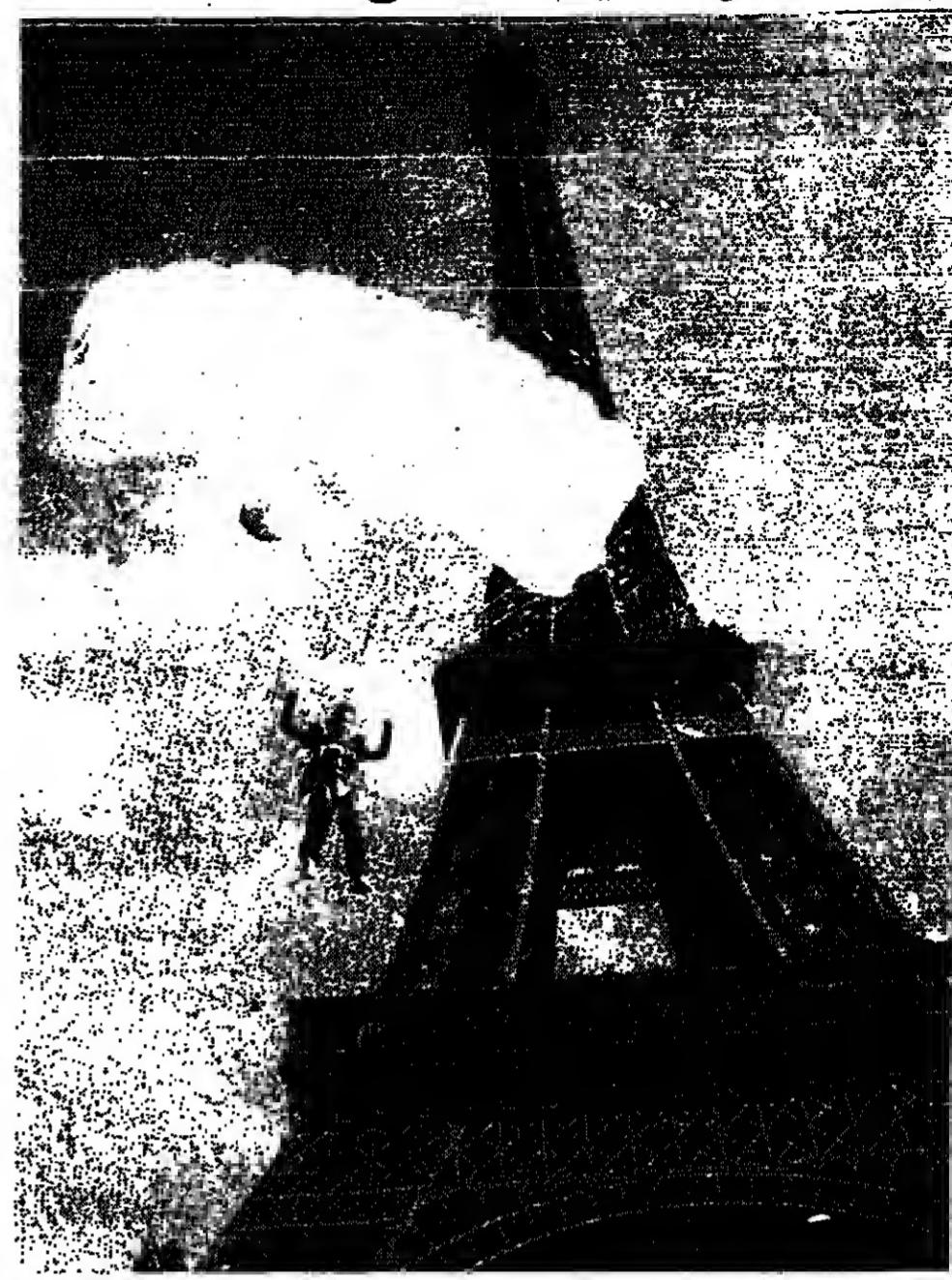
A relay of 33 champion athletes, led by two-time Olympic champion hurdler Edwin Moses, took turns carrying the torch through the streets of Paris, stopping briefly at the Sorbonne University where Frenchman Baron Pierre de Coubertin founded the modern Olympic movement 100 years ago.

"After a century, the flame is in some way returning to its starting point, from where it will set off again into another century," IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said at the Sorbonne.

The flame was then taken to the Bercy indoor sports arena, where Olympic 400-metre hurdles champion Marie-José Pérec lit a larger flame following a concert by Dee Dee Bridgewater and band leader Michel Legrand.

Balladur and other officials hailed the Olympic movement, celebrating its centenary at this congress.

"Already, the International Olympic Committee has proven its influence," said Balladur, who was a last-minute stand-in for ailing President François Mitterrand. "It has contributed to fighting against apartheid in South Africa. It supports national Olympic committees of countries at war. Time and again



A parachutist lands at the Eiffel Tower during a ceremony marking the opening of the XII Olympic Congress Monday. Some 2,000 sports leaders from 196 nations are taking part in this week-long Congress (AFP photo)

million cost.

Paris, which is footing a large portion of the bill, is seen as trying to put a good face forward for a bid for the 2004 games, which will be awarded in 1997 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Several other cities have expressed their interest in bidding for the 2004 games, including Cape Town, South Africa; Istanbul, Turkey; Stockholm, Sweden; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, China, which lost out to Sydney, Australia, in the vote for the 2000 games, is considering making another bid.

## Indurain calls for harmonising doping rules

BORDEAUX (R) — Tour de France champion Miguel Indurain, victim of a doping rules muddle, has called for the harmonisation of regulations to combat the abuse of drugs in sport.

Indurain Monday said reports that he had tested positive for drugs at a race in France in May had already damaged his image and his Spanish Banesto team threatened legal action against anyone who had "maliciously" tarnished his reputation.

"The damage is more or less done," said Indurain shortly after arriving in Bordeaux from Spain for Friday's attempt on the world one-hour record.

"A positive case is always a big story. What must be done now is to harmonise the rules. Let's accept this product or ban it."

Indurain said he openly used a ventolin inhaler, a regular asthma treatment, during the Tour de L'Oise in May and that banesto doctors had given race organises

documents to show it was being used for legitimate medical reasons.

Both the International Olympic Committee (IPC) and the International Cycling Union (UCI) accept the use of ventolin inhalers for medical purposes, even though they contain the banned drug Salbutamol.

They have said he should not be sanctioned but the French sports ministry, in an attempt to take together action against dope in sport, have suggested a French plot against Indurain prompted by jealousy.

"In this case it's not just my image which is harmed but the image of all riders," Indurain said. "This time it's my turn, that's all. But there have been precedents."

In 1988, Indurain's long-time teammate Pedro Delgado was reported to have failed to dope test during the Tour de France, but the product he took was not on the UCI's-banned list at the time and he went on to win the tour.

Indurain's manager Francis Laffargue said he believed Banesto would take legal action when they found out who was responsible for leaking rumours of a positive test.

"I have used ventolin several times before and I don't know why the French

federation is bringing this up now. They must know. But I don't think anyone has it in for me."

Some Spanish commentators, citing the curious fact that the test result has been leaked almost four months after the event, have suggested a French plot against Indurain prompted by jealousy.

"We are unhappy at the way this has escalated but we are taking everyone's point of view into account and we are optimistic of finding a solution," Olympic Council of Asia director general Abdul Muttalib Ahmad told AFP.

The Chinese government had warned of a political storm if Lee was to visit Japan after being invited by OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad of Kuwait.

The sheikh, yet to arrive in Paris, had refused to withdraw his invitation.

## Games officials tackle Taiwan dilemma

PARIS (AP) — Asian Games officials are busy putting together a face-saving compromise which will keep Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui away from Hiroshima in October and avert a possible Chinese boycott.

"We are unhappy at the way this has escalated but we are taking everyone's point of view into account and we are optimistic of finding a solution," Olympic Council of Asia director general Abdul Muttalib Ahmad told AFP.

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tier against new Commonwealth Games gold medalists Phil Rogers of Australia and Nick Gillingham of Britain.

China's daunting array of world beaters threaten to dominate the women's events, emulating the formidable East German "wundermaedchen" of yesteryear.

The Chinese gathered their first four world titles in 1991 and collected four more at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, but a new generation has emerged in the past year.

None of the Barcelona champions will swim in Rome. Freestyle Yang Wenqi and Zhuang Young and butterfly Qian Hong have gone while individual medley swimmer Lin Li has been chosen only for the forthcoming Asian Games.

## Canadian medallist fails test

VICTORIA (AFP) — Canadian weightlifter Jim Dan Corbett was stripped of his three bronze medals at the Commonwealth Games here late Monday after testing positive for drugs. All three of his medals in the 83kilogrammes snatch, clean and jerk and total go to fellow Canadian Yvan Darsigny, who was originally fourth in all three categories.

The Commonwealth Games federation said it planned no further action against Corbett although the International Weightlifting Federation might act. The drugs used were the stimulants ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

## British diver suspended

ROME (AP) — The International Swimming Federation has suspended British diver Tony Ali for six months after he refused to take a random doping test, federation officials said Monday. Federation officials are in Rome this week as the capital prepares to host the world championships Sept. 1-11. Suspension began as of Sunday, Aug. 28, said a statement from the federation, specifying that Ali thus wouldn't be able to participate in the championship. The brief statement gave no details about the refusal, other than saying it took place outside competition. A spokesman for the federation in Rome, Paolo Pacetti, said the test that Ali was supposed to take was a surprise. Britain's swimming federation has been notified of suspension, the federation said.

**Villa beat Coventry 1-0**

LONDON (R) — Dwight Yorke scored in only the third minute and that was all Aston Villa needed for a 1-0 victory over struggling Coventry in the English Premier League Monday. The triumph was Villa's first after draws in their three previous matches and it boosted them into a cluster of five clubs with six points, though their goal difference leaves them in ninth place. Yorke headed home after just two minutes and 33 seconds following a bad blunder of a Villa cross by the Coventry defence. "Obviously we needed it," Villa manager Ron Atkinson said of the win. "I thought we defended magnificently," he added. "Coventry worked very hard but I cannot recall any clear cut chances they had. We didn't allow them any opportunities."

## Schumacher rightly disqualified

VIENNA (AP) — World championship leader Michael Schumacher was rightly disqualified after winning Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix, according to Austrian ex-driver Niki Lauda. Schumacher was disqualified nearly five hours after the race when a compulsory wooden block under his car was found to be a couple of millimetres too thin. The thinness could have raised cornering speeds. His Benetton-Ford team have appealed the decision, which handed victory to Britain's Damon Hill in the Williams-Renault. But Lauda, a leading voice among grand prix drivers and consultants to Ferrar, said the move was "absolutely fair," although he blamed the team rather than the driver. "If a car is built to the very limits of legality, as Benetton has apparently done all year, it's quite simply not right," he said.

## Ingesson heads for Sheffield

STOCKHOLM (AP) — English Premiership club Sheffield Wednesday are about to sign PSV Eindhoven's Swedish international midifielder Klas Ingesson, it was reported here Monday. Ingesson, who helped Sweden to third place in the World Cup, has only a few details and a medical to sort out before signing, Sweden's TT news agency said. The transfer fee was not known. The 26-year-old,

## Perkins and Popov top of the world

Kins felt good and smashed his 1,500 record too.

The little Australian aims for more record-breaking in Rome's Foro Italico where he bids to repeat his Commonwealth Games golden treble in the 200, 400 and 1,500 freestyle.

Perkins missed gold by a fingertip in an epic 1,500 duel with Joerg Hoffman at the last world championships in Perth, Australia, in January 1991 but trounced the German and everyone else at the 1992 Olympics.

Popov is similarly in a class of his own at the shorter freestyle distances and anything less than a repeat of the 50 and 100 golds he won at

the Olympics would be a major surprise.

Americans Mel Stewart and Tom Jager, world champions at 200 butterfly and 50 freestyle respectively, are also absent.

Olympic champion Stewart picked up an infection at the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg in July and had to delay an operation on his tonsils. Jager, world champion in 1986 and 1991, pulled out after U.S. team chief Dennis Pursley refused his request to travel to Rome later than the rest of the squad.

Two of the best men's races could come in the breaststroke with world champion Norbert Rozsa and fellow Hungarian and European champion Karoly Gutti.

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## Mansell returns to Formula One

LONDON (AP) — Former world champion Nigel Mansell is to return to Formula One racing with the Williams-Renault team for the last three races of this season.

Williams announced Tuesday that Mansell would rejoin the team for the final three grands prix after his commitments with the Newman-Haas Indy-car team in the United States are complete.

He will race the European Grand Prix at Jerez in Spain on Oct. 16, the Japanese at Suzuka on Nov. 6 and the Australian in Adelaide one week later.

The Williams team said it would make no further comment on its driver line-up for 1995.

Mansell has four races left in the Indy car season for the Newman-Haas team with whom he won the championship in his first season last year, and has said he is totally committed to those races before concentrating on Formula One.

He hinted at a return to Formula One with a guest appearance for Williams at the French Grand Prix July 3, and although he did not finish the race, team boss Frank Williams was impressed with his drive.

"I think Nigel enjoyed his race in France and the fact he is prepared to come back for the final three seems to confirm this," Williams said.

"Nigel never takes an easy option and coming to Formula One after two seasons in another series confirms this."

"He did a very good job for us in France and I am sure he will do the same in Spain, Japan and Australia."

He will partner fellow Briton Damon Hill as Williams' number two driver, relegating Scot David Coulthard to test driver.

Mansell won 27 grands prix



Nigel Mansell

for the Williams team and won the 1992 World Championship, turning to the Indy-car circuit the following year.

In all, Mansell has won 30 grands prix, winning three with Ferrari in a two year stint with the Italian team in 1989 and 1990.

He started his career with Williams in 1985 and returned after his session at Ferrari in 1991.

Despite speculation he would 'drive' the last three grands prix when he drove in France, Mansell insisted that drive was a "guest appearance."

"I must add caution to people getting excited. It's just one appearance and we'll have to wait and see after that," he said at the time.

After the death of Ayrton Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix May 1, Williams had been talking to Mansell to try to entice him back on the team, despite the differences of opinion which saw them split in 1992.

Williams would not comment on how much money

taken advantage of Zeecke's slowness, his erratic groundstrokes, his weak second serve. Instead, he displayed a mixture of indifference and confusion. He strolled away from one of Zeecke's 16 aces before the ball even crossed the net. He stared plaintively in the last game when one forehand by Zeecke clipped the net cord and skipped into the corner for a winner, and when one of his own sat up for Zeecke to put away on match point.

"It was the best set of tennis I ever played in my life in the fifth set," Reneberg said after his first victory over Becker. "No way I can play any better than that. I never have and probably never will again."

Day 1 of the open lasted more than 13 hours, from morning rain to midday heat to night chill, from an upset of No. 2 Goran Ivanisevic to the upset of Becker.

Long after Ivanisevic fell in four sets to Markus Zeecke, Reneberg closed the show with an overhead into an open court that Becker could not reach.

Reneberg, 28, covered so much of the court that it seemed at times as if he had an invisible doubles partner on his side. Becker tried to beat him from the baseline, then from the net, but couldn't overcome a sluggish start.

Becker occasionally was brilliant: He served 10 of his 20 aces in the fifth set. But there were other times when he seemed destined to lose: His 29 of his 59 unforced errors in the first two sets.

He was coming off tour victories in Los Angeles and New Haven, Conn., and was deemed a potent contender at the open.

But Reneberg was nearly flawless with only 28 unforced errors in the whole match. He hit lunging winners off the frame of his racket, passing shots that left Becker stunned, groundstrokes that nicked the corners.

Even when Becker evened the match in sets 3 and 4, Reneberg played far above his usual standard.

"He slowed down in the fourth set and saved his energy for the fifth," Becker said. "The balls here are heavier and softer. That suits his game very much. He's a counter-puncher."

Becker said organisers had tried to slow down the hardcourts this year and "everybody knows I am not the best on a slow surface."

"I played one of the best summers of my life," he said. "I felt good. I was winning a tournament without losing a set."

Ivanisevic's loss created even more uncertainty in the men's draw. No. 1 Pete Sampras is questionable to repeat as champion after being sidelined for more than a month.

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Ivanisevic, bothered by a sore hip one week, a sprained brain the next, was gone from the open a few hours after the first rain, muttering something about trying his luck on the women's tour.

He stood meekly behind the baseline during most of his 6-2, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 loss to Zeecke, a 1.96-metre (6-foot-5) player distinguished only by his hard service.

Ivanisevic could have

defected long ago, but he had to make do with a consolation prize.

Defections have long been a problem for travelling Albanian teams and some 400 of the nation's players have moved abroad since the fall of communism.

Albania's away match in Wales and Georgia's home game with Moldova next Wednesday may now both go ahead, UEFA said.

UEFA had told Albania Thursday that it would be thrown out of the tournament if it did not provide guarantees that players would not defect.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Ciller cancels trip to Cairo conference

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has cancelled a planned visit to the U.N. World Population Conference because of a tight schedule, the foreign ministry announced Tuesday. The announcement was made after a Cairo court Tuesday rejected an attempt by Muslim fundamentalists to have the U.N. World Population Conference cancelled, as Sudan joined Saudi Arabia in boycotting the controversial gathering. Turkey will now be represented by state minister Onay Alpago. "Turkey, which attributes particular importance to development issues, supports efforts aimed at improving the standard of living of children and mothers, their education and their access to medical services," a statement issued by the ministry said. Turkey will back any "development that respects the environment, and favours measures enhancing sexual equality, the development of family planning and health as well as the improvement of the situation of immigrants."

## Japan welcomes Israeli-PLO pact

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan on Tuesday said it welcomed an accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) granting Palestinians the right to administer basic services on the West Bank, the foreign ministry said. The ministry said in a statement that Japan expected the agreement covering education, health, welfare, tourism and taxation to be implemented as soon as possible. It said Tokyo hoped negotiations on an interim self-government will make further progress and that an election for the Palestinian Council would soon take place. "Japan intends to continue its assistance to the peace process by urging the parties concerned to move the peace negotiations forward, participating in the multilateral talks, and extending assistance to the Palestinians," it added. Japan has pledged to provide \$25.75 million to help finance Palestine's administrative expenses.

## Israel frees Jewish extremist

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel set free Tuesday the spokesman for the anti-Arab Kach movement who was arrested in the aftermath of the Hebron mosque massacre, the authorities announced. Noam Federman served six months in administrative detention as the Israeli government cracked down on extreme right wingers who praised the murder of 29 Palestinians by a Jewish settler in the West Bank town on February 25. Mr. Federman told state radio after his release that he would resume the fight "against the gang which is running the Israeli government." The government outlawed Kach on March 13 and declared it a "terrorist" movement. Mosque killer Baruch Goldstein had spent years as a Kach militant. Three other Jewish extremists remain in administrative detention, a renewable emergency measure which had been applied only to Palestinians until the mosque slaughter.

## Iran cracks counterfeiting ring, arrests 18

TEHRAN (AFP) — Security forces have smashed a ring of counterfeiters in western Iran, arresting 18 people including a Turkish national, a newspaper reported Tuesday. Hamshahri, quoting an intelligence official in Hamedan province, said the suspects forged and distributed fake money in several provinces. One of those arrested was a Turkish citizen who smuggled fake money into the country, it said without identifying the foreign suspect. Several members of the group had links to the main armed opposition group, the Iraq-based People's Mujahideen, the paper added.

## Sudanese minister talks to Zimbabwe over rebels

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe and Sudan, at odds over alleged support by Harare for anti-Khartoum rebels, held talks on Tuesday in smooth relations, Zimbabwean official sources said. "Zimbabwe wants to set the record straight that it is not supporting militarily the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) as alleged recently," one source told Reuters. The talk between Sudan's Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih and his Zimbabwean counterpart, Nathan Shamuyarira took place after foreign press reports said Harare was arming the SPLA, fighting Khartoum's Muslim-led government since 1983. The SPLA, drawn from the largely Christian and animist south, has diplomatic representation in Zimbabwe, which is generally thought to be sympathetic to the rebels' cause.

## Iraq blames U.S. for Cuban refugee crisis

NICOSIA (AFP) — U.S. expansionism is to blame for the wave of Cubans breaching the Florida Straits on makeshift rafts to head for the United States, Iraq said Tuesday. The Iraqi government newspaper Al Jumhuriya charged that the United States had "incited the Cubans to flee (...) without being capable of giving them refuge. The island 'won't bow to its colonialist and expansionist policy,' the paper said according to the official Iraqi agency INA, monitored in Cyprus. More than 17,000 Cubans have been picked up at sea this month, the biggest wave since the 1980 Mariel boatlift in which more than 125,000 Cubans arrived in the United States over five months. Iraq has been under a U.N. oil and trade embargo since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. The United States has strongly opposed lifting the sanctions in a bid to force Baghdad to comply with U.N. resolutions on dismantling its weapons of mass destruction and to recognise Kuwait's borders and sovereignty.

## Israeli residents protest collaborators moving in

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Dozens of residents from Jaffa demonstrated Monday against the resettlement of hundreds of Palestinian collaborators in the town by Israeli authorities. Residents said the defence ministry had authorised 500 Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to seek refuge in the town south of Tel Aviv, after they were threatened for collaborating with Israeli authorities. Demonstrators, who included Israeli Arabs, carried banners which read: "We are not a rubbish dump." Ronnie Milo, mayor of Tel Aviv, told Israeli radio that the presence of too many collaborators in Jaffa could "disturb the residents' peace." Mr. Milo recalled that a Palestinian had killed one of his Israeli neighbours there in June, allegedly to win back approval of friends and family. Around 1,000 Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities have been killed since the outbreak of the intifada in the occupied territories in December 1987, according to an army toll.

## Former Aristide allies detained in Haiti

PONT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — Three people including two former members of the security contingent of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide were detained in the Haitian capital, informed sources said Tuesday. The sources said those detained Monday included Philippe Michel and Jean-Marie Thomas, who helped coordinate security for Mr. Aristide during his 1990 election campaign and after he took office in February 1991 until the September 1991 coup. Also detained was Thomas' wife, while his son, Jean-Claude, was not present. The reasons for the arrests were not immediately known. The authorities are allowed to detain persons for 48 hours before deciding whether to charge or release them. The detentions came a day after Father Jean-Marie Vincent, a priest and close adviser of Aristide, was gunned down as he returned home.



German President Roman Herzog and his wife Christiane welcome Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor to Villa Hammerschmidt Monday (AFP photo)

## Syria criticises early empowerment pact

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria criticised Tuesday a new accord that gave Palestinians some autonomous powers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The government newspaper Tishrin said in an editorial that Monday's accord, which gave the Palestinians control over education, health, welfare, tourism and taxation, legitimised Israel's occupation.

It said Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine National Authority that is running autonomous zones in the Gaza

Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, was in a "real predicament."

To help him out, Israel gave him "early authorities" to run much of the Palestinian daily affairs in the rest of the West Bank. Monday's agreement was "an attempt to alleviate the popular Palestinian pressure on him."

Tishrin said the new agreement unveiled the Palestine Liberation Organisation's "deteriorating state and its full subjugation to the Israeli will."

"Arafat's approval of this

agreement means that the PLO has adopted the Israeli stand, which stipulates that the land belongs to Israel and the PLO runs the affairs of some Palestinian inhabitants in the light of continuing Israeli occupation."

On the other hand, a radical Palestinian group opposed to the PLO-Israeli deal on Tuesday condemned Mr. Arafat's plans to change the Palestinian charter.

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